12th slot still a tossup between Recto, Honasan

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2001 ★ 68 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 180 ₱15

Smoker wins $3-B suit vs Philip Morris

LOS ANGELES—A jury has awarded a cancer-stricken smoker more than $3 billion from tobacco giant Philip Morris, the largest judgment against a cigarette maker in a lawsuit brought by an individual.

The Superior Court jury on Wednesday found against Philip Morris on all six claims of fraud, negligence and making a defective product. Some legal experts cautioned, however, that the

SMOKER/ A19

Sin now selling old newspapers

MAGTINDA NA RIN KAYO NG DYARYO!

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin is selling old newspapers.

But don't worry, the Archdiocese of Manila is not running out of funds. Sin just

SIN/ A18

2 Aetas rescue missing US sailor

'We couldn't give him food because we had nothing'

"THANK God, you're safe." A very happy and greatly relieved President Macapagal welcomes US Navy officer Scott Allan Washburn to Malacañang after he went missing for 33 hours in the Mt. Pinatubo area.
JOAN BONDOC

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE LIGHT rap on the door came around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday as the two Aeta tribesmen were making plans for another day of hard work.

The Pampanga Aetas, Patricio Gutierrez, 29, and Rafael Pan, 22, were thanking God and congratulating themselves for landing an extra job in town as bricklayers.

The extra daily wages would augment the little they managed to scrape together every day gathering fruits and vegetables to sell at the local market.

When Gutierrez opened the door of their shanty in an Aeta village nestled at the foot of Mt. Pinatubo, he and Pan did not know that fortune had smiled on them.

"My friend, can you help me?" asked the weary and bedraggled foreigner, who, standing well over 6 feet, towered over the 4-foot-10-inch Gutierrez. Pan is only a few inches taller than his fellow Negrito tribesman.

The stranger was shivering, drenched and soiled from a heavy downpour earlier in the afternoon.

Gutierrez could see that he was exhausted; and presumed, correctly, that he had lost his way.

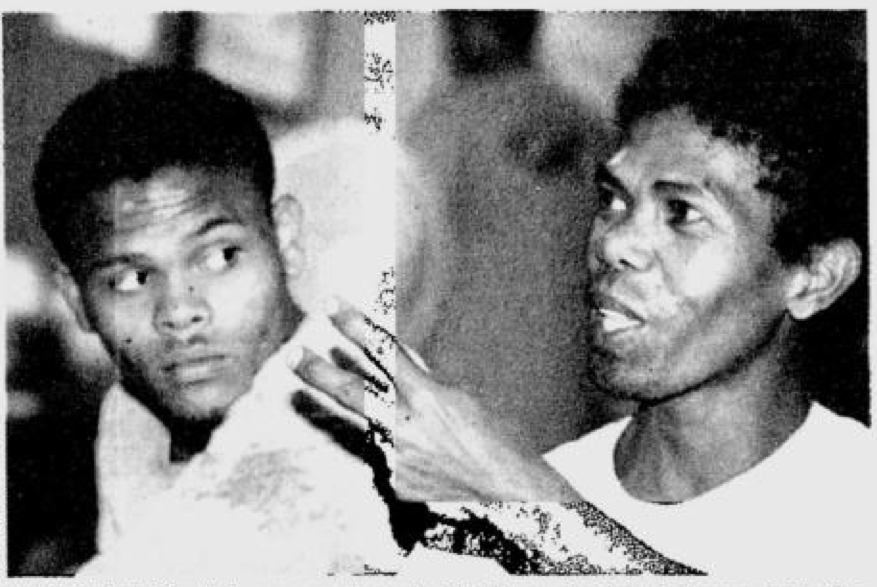
Inviting the stranger inside the 2-by-4-meter shanty, Gutierrez asked if the Caucasian was a tourist or a soldier.

The man introduced himself.

"Lieutenant Scott, US Navy," said Lt. JG (Junior Grade) Scott Washburn, 33, the subject of a massive two-day manhunt and press conferences on both sides of the Pacific.

He was unshaven and barefoot, "but

2 AETAS/ A21


VAL HANDUMON

"LIEUTENANT Scott, he was sent to us by God," says Patricio Gutierrez, right, who with his brother-in-law Rafael Pan helped the missing US sailor find his way back.

Sabaya threatens to behead US captive

BY ALEXANDER YOUNG,
JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND CARLITO PABLO

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Abu Sayyaf yesterday said it would behead one of its American hostages if the government failed to start negotiations in 72 hours.

In two calls to Radio Mindanao Network at noon and at 4:30 p.m., Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya demanded that the government include former Malaysian Sen. Sairin Karno as a negotiator.

Speaking in Taglish, Sabaya said his group should not be "provoked" because it might just go ahead with its planned "ribbon cutting."

The military quickly responded to Sabaya's first call to RMN, which has been the sole recipient of the bandit group's messages.

In a marked change in tone since the latest hostage crisis broke out, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan invoked Allah and urged Sabaya to immediately get in touch with the government's designated negotiator, William Castillo.

"I know that you believe in Allah and you know that innocent victims are not to be hurt," Adan said in Filipino in a live telecast over Radio Veritas from Camp Aguinaldo. "It's a violation of your religion, of Islam. That's why we're asking you to continue treating them well."

Asked by reporters later about his appeal to Sabaya, Adan said he was "just directed to issue (it)."

The Malaysian government,

SABAYA/ A20

AFP tells critics Abus have 'home court advantage'

THOSE critical of the military's handling of the hostage crisis in Basilan should realize that the battle ground is not as small as a shopping mall but bigger than Metro Manila, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said yesterday.

On top of this, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, the Abu Sayyaf enjoys a "home court advantage" because it is a "master of the terrain" in Basilan.

Golez added that the ransom earned by the Abu Sayyaf from the Sipadan kidnappings last year was four times bigger than the AFP's entire equipment outlay for that year.

Adan and Golez said the bandits were also receiving foreign funding and training, manpower and weapons from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the support of a "community of informants" that includes their own relatives and friends.

The two officials aired the litany of woes at the Holiday Inn Manila's Roundtable forum, in response to public criticisms for the military's failure to capture the bandits as they and their hostages were holed up in a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, last weekend.

"You know, the general perception of the public is (that) a 100-man armed group is in a place the size of (SM) Megamall (on Edsa)," Adan said.

The eastern part of Basilan island alone, where the bandits are believed to be, is an area comprising 200 square kilometers that they are familiar with, he said.

He added: "We are talking of a search that covers a size larger than Metro Manila and bounded by

AFP/ A20

DENNIS SABANGAN

HEAVILY armed Marines guard the St. Peter's Church in Lamitan, Basilan, where local Catholic priests held a concelebrated thanksgiving Mass. The church sustained extensive damage during the fighting over the weekend.

3 Cebu trade groups back Basilan emergency rule

BY MALOU GUANZON-APALISOK
PDI Visayas Bureau
MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND JULIET JAVELLANA

FACED with a tourism industry reeling from the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis, three major business groups in Cebu are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare emergency rule in Basilan, Jolo and Tawi-Tawi to end the crisis.

The Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cebu Business Club and Mandaue City Chamber of Commerce asked Ms Macapagal to "crush the Abu Sayyaf whatever it takes."

The spokespersons of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday said that declaring a state of emergency or martial law in Basilan would help the government lick the Abu Sayyaf problem.

The proposal to impose martial law or to declare a state of emergency in Basilan is meeting stiff opposition not only from civil society and church groups but also from members of the Cabinet.

"Many members of the Cabinet have already spoken and they feel that we can conduct the war against the Abu Sayyaf without declaring martial law or a state of emergency," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said.

Asked if it meant that Mala-

3 CEBU/ A21

Neophytes back Joker; JDV faces stiff fight

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

NEOPHYTE senators have banded together to push for the presidency of the maverick Senator-elect Joker Arroyo in the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, seven political parties have forged an alliance to block the bid of former Speaker Jose de Venecia to assume the chamber's top post for the third time.

Senator-elect Ralph Recto yesterday said that he and colleagues Manuel Villar and Francisco Pangilinan had agreed to rally behind Arroyo. All ran under the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC) in the May 14 senatorial elections.

"Joker is equally able, if not

NEOPHYTES/ A18

Nikki cried; Miriam, JPE were absent

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

NIKKI burst into tears and Miriam and Johnny were conspicuously absent as the Senate yesterday adjourned the last session of a tumultuous 11th Congress.

Senators Francisco Tatad and Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng, whose nine-year terms end on June 30, bid their colleagues goodbye and waxed sentimental on their achievements and disappointments over the past year.

Yesterday also saw the upper chamber lauding Senate Majority Leader Tatad, Senate Minority Leader Renato Cayetano and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. for their respective contributions to

NIKKI/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

PANG MATAGALAN NA 'TO!

12th slot still a tossup

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE FINAL 12th and 13th place winners among the newly elected senators will not be known for a while after opposition and administration lawyers disputed 11 municipal certificates of canvass from Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte.

Commissioner Rex Borra said he expects an "interesting" legal tussle between lawyers of the Puwersa ng Masa and the People Power Coalition over the petition filed by former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez contesting 114,027 votes credited to Sen. Ralph Recto in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte.

Rodriguez is the lawyer of Sen. Luisa Ejercito who was in 11th place but whose ranking could be affected by adjustments to Recto's votes.

Borra said Rodriguez would insist on retrieving the certificates of canvass and statements of votes of 11 towns in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte, during the resumption of the national canvassing by the National Board of Canvassers.

But, Borra predicted, Recto's lawyers would question the jurisdiction of the NBC over Rodriguez's petition.

"On the part of Rodriguez, it (petition) is a pre-proclamation controversy and he would pursue his arguments along that line," Borra said

"On the part of Recto, the petition would be treated as an electoral protest to be resolved by the Senate Electoral Tribunal because the senators have already been proclaimed," he added.

Even Rodriguez admitted the PPC lawyers would place all legal obstacles in his way and even "try to use the influence of the administration over the Comelec."

"The Comelec should show the impartiality it demonstrated when it took back 93,000 votes credited to Recto in Zamboanga del Norte, Tawi-Tawi and Sultan Kudarat," Rodriguez said.

"That was a precedent," he said. "If the Comelec does not allow the reopening of the COCs and SOVs this time, then one would think they were covering up for Recto."

Rodriguez said there was a "clear agreement" during a closed-door conference between the NBC and all the lawyers last week that the proclamation of the 13 senators would not preclude the resolution of all the petitions filed before the proclamation.

Earlier, Rodriguez succeeded in having 93,000 votes deducted from Recto after the National Board of Canvassers found proof that these had been padded onto Recto's total.

On Tuesday, when the 13 winning senators were proclaimed, Rodriguez filed a petition questioning 114,027 votes for Recto in the 11 towns in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte.

Former Comelec commissioner Manolo Gorospe, PPC counsel, said they were not inclined to comment on Rodriguez's petition.

"Proclaimed *na yung kandidato namin*, particularly Ralph Recto, whether you like it or not," he said.

"Can you still remove any votes from the statistics that were contained in the resolution?" he asked. "Now if they want to bring all these before the Supreme Court, then that's the time when we are going to answer their petition."

As of the latest official count, which was the basis for the proclamation, Recto was in 12th place with 10,387,108 votes and Honasan in 13th place with 10,363,272, a difference of only 22,836 votes.

Even Ejercito, who was in 11th place with 10,456,674 votes, is not assured of a six-year term since she leads Recto by only 69,566 votes and Honasan by 94,402. *With Mae Lorraine Rafols*

Trade usec named new energy chief

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday named Trade Undersecretary Vince Perez as the new secretary of energy to replace Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Camacho moves to the post of finance secretary which Alberto Romulo leaves to become the executive secretary.

Camacho and Romulo will take their oath in Malacañang ceremonies this morning, when the President would also sign the power reform bill and the P11 billion supplemental budget into law.

The reshuffle was prompted by the resignation of Executive Secretary Rene de Villa after he underwent a triple heart bypass surgery.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President appointed Perez on Camacho's recommendation.

"The decision was made today, I think the transition would be made fast," Tiglao said, adding the effectivity of Perez's appointment is still to be announced.

He said Perez, a DTI career executive, was managing director of the Board of Investments.

The President had waited for the ratification of the power reform bill before making Camacho's appointment effective. His appointment was originally set for June 15 but the ratification of the power reform bill by the Senate last Tuesday apparently hastened its effectivity.

Bring Erap, Sandiganbayan orders PNP

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday ordered Camp Crame to "produce the bodies" of ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son for the June 18 bail hearing in connection with their plunder case.

The anti-graft court also issued subpoenas to two Senate officials, an Equitable-PCI bank branch manager, a Malacañang records officer, and a private lawyer.

These persons were ordered to bring along documents first presented in Estrada's Senate impeachment trial, including the paper trail left by Yolanda Ricaforte, the ex-president's alleged "auditor" for his jueteng payola collections.

The 3rd Division ordered PNP chief Leandro Mendoza to bring Estrada and son Jinggoy to the courthouse for the 9 a.m. opener of what is set to be a 10-day marathon bail hearing.

A separate order was issued to the PNP to ensure the appearance of co-accused lawyer Edward Serapio, who is detained in Camp Crame. The Estradas are receiving medical attention for almost a month now at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Last Friday, the division acceded to state prosecutors' petition requiring the Estradas to attend the hearings although it was only Serapio who had asked to be granted bail.

Rene Saguisag, one of the Estrada counsels, filed an opposition the next day.

The former senator argued that only Serapio should be compelled to since the Estradas have not petitioned for bail but for house arrest instead.

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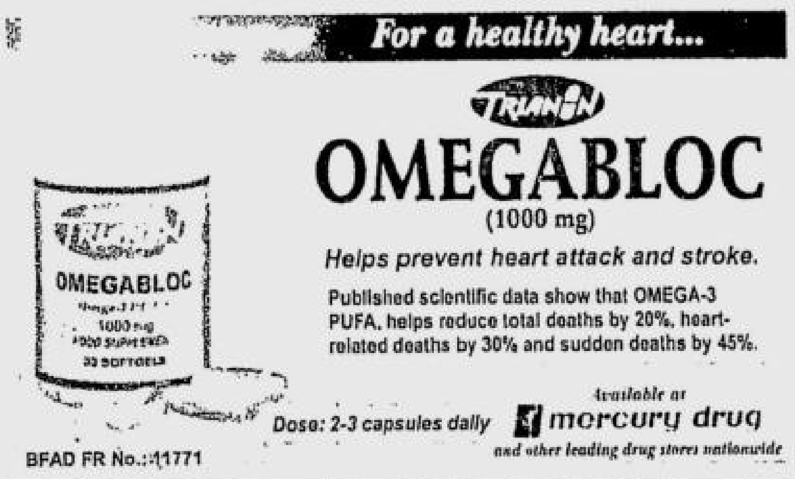
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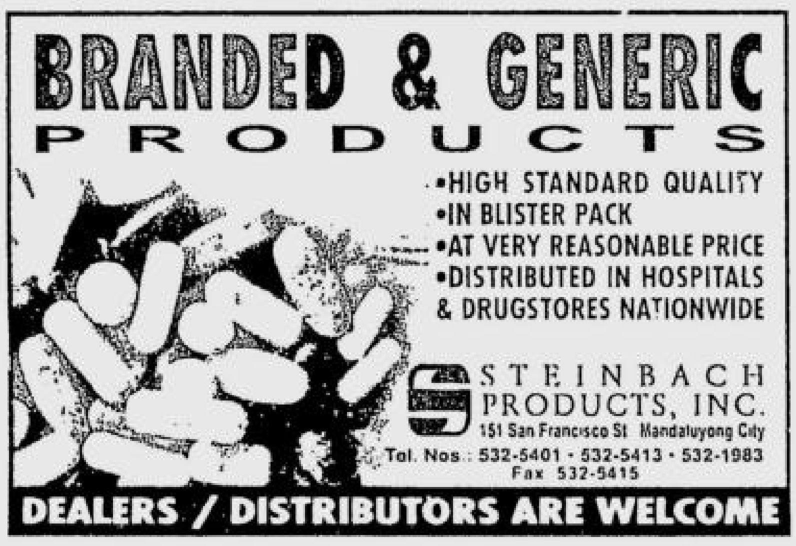
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ERIK ARAZAS

GOODBYE, KIT

Sen. Francisco Tatad, the Senate majority leader, smiles wryly as he accepts the handshakes of colleagues Sen. Tito Sotto and Renato Cayetano following his valedictory speech yesterday, the last session day of the 11th Congress. Tatad served three terms in the Senate and was not eligible to run again.

Don't blame me for sins of others, says DAR chief

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

"DON'T blame me for the sins of the past administrations."

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza made this appeal yesterday to militant farmers from Negros Occidental who had blamed him for the slow pace of land redistribution in the province.

The farmers ended their 40-day camp-out the other day at the Department of Agrarian Reform after some of them were successfully installed in at least three haciendas in the province.

Before going home, however, they vowed to come back soon to push for Braganza's ouster from the Cabinet.

The beleaguered secretary appealed for understanding from farmers by giving him more time to institute much-needed reforms for the successful implementation of the government's land reform program.

He said that in his only three months in office, he has already set into motion the reforms demanded by farmers' groups and non-government organizations during consultations with the new DAR administration.

One of these reforms, according to him, involves the setting up of a mechanism that would fast-track not only the acquisition of land reform landowners but also its distribution to qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries.

"This is precisely the reason why I created Task Force Salin-Lupa, which has been mandated to fast-track land acquisition and distribution as the most vital component of the agrarian reform program," Braganza said.

He pointed out that the task force has been specifically instructed to address the complaints of farmers regarding the failure of the past administrations to install agrarian reform beneficiaries who were given Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) as long as 10 years ago.

Braganza noted that in Negros Occidental alone, there are 1,531 farmer-beneficiaries who had been given CLOAs to 2,978 hectares of land but have yet to be installed due to stiff resistance from land owners.

The situation, he said, is worse in Negros Oriental, where 9,917 CLOA-holders remain uninstalled in 18,500 hectares of land acquired under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"This (installation of farmer-beneficiaries) is one of the biggest challenges facing the new DAR administration at the moment, and we have no intention of running away from this responsibility," Braganza said.

"In fact, Task Force Salin-Lupa at present is reviewing all the cases of uninstalled farmers which were submitted to our office during a series of dialogues we had with NGOs and farmers in my first months of office," the secretary said.

Braganza also asked Negros farmers to give him a leeway in order to address not just the issues they had raised but also the backlog of cases pending not only in the province but in other parts of the country as well.

Braganza assured them, however, that the province would remain a priority area under CARP not only in terms of land distribution but also in the delivery of support services to the farmers.

He cited, in particular, the success of the new DAR team in installing 98 farmer-beneficiaries in five contentious haciendas in Negros Occidental during his first three months in office.

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by
Florenz D. Regalado
Senior Associate Justice (Ret.)
Supreme Court of the Philippines

This latest edition has been primarily necessitated by the promulgation of the revised Rules of Criminal Procedure, effective December 1, 2000. Correlatively, certain procedural enactments have been included in this work, specifically, R.A. 8493 (Speedy Trial Act of 1998), R.A. 8792 (Electronic Commerce Act) and A.M. No. 00-4-97-SC (Rule on the Examination of a Child Witness). Also, recent decisional doctrines have been duly incorporated under the corresponding Rules of Special Proceedings, Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

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'JUST WAITING'

Bus operators eye fare hike

BUS operators may soon file for a fare hike.

"We are seriously thinking of filing for a fare increase. We're just waiting for the evaluations of our member companies," said Claire de la Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (Imboa).

De la Fuente said Imboa members were willing to continue operating at the current fare rate because they did not want to add to the financial burden of commuters, but they may soon have to hike their fares.

"Our last fare hike could not cover the latest fuel price increase three weeks ago. We hardly make any more money because of the additional fuel expenses," she said.

De la Fuente said the income per day per bus, less driver's and conductor's commissions and the cost of gasoline, was slashed from P4,500 to P2,900 after the latest fuel price hike of nearly 50 centavos.

Maintenance and administrative costs must come from the P2,900, she added.

"The price of diesel fuel for each of our buses went up by P125 daily. The prices of spare parts will inevitably go up too. We will not be able to maintain our buses if we don't file for an increase soon," she said.

De la Fuente said that should their income drop further "we will not wait for them (oil companies) to increase their prices. If our members' assessment of their income is bad, we will file for an increase with or without another oil price hike."

The problem will not be solved, however, simply by increasing their fares, acknowledged De la Fuente, who pointed to "the competition."

"Our minimum fare right now is P9. The Metro Rail Transit also charges a minimum of P9. If we increase our rates, the people might go for the faster alternative," she said.

Some 3,500 of the 6,000 buses that run on Edsa belong to Imboa members. Being in the majority, however, does not give them final say on a fare hike.

"We coordinate (with other bus operators associations) before filing anything. When we reach a consensus, that's when we make a stand," she said.

The Inter-city Bus Operators Association (Interboa) said, however, they do not have any plans of filing for a fare increase. *Abigail L. Ho*

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PEACE WITH MOROS

Gov't all set for talks

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

THE GOVERNMENT is ready to start formal peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front after next week.

Jesus Dureza, chief government peace negotiator, said his panel will finalize its "negotiation strategy" on Monday when it meets in Davao City.

After that, he said, the panel will submit its plans to Malacañang for approval.

"After (the President's approval) within the next week expect things to happen," Dureza told a news conference yesterday.

"We have to do this very properly. We have to have a road map so to speak, unlike before," he said, referring to the botched peace talks during the Estrada administration.

"Within the next few days we'll be able to announce (the start date of the talks)," he said.

The Associated Press, however, reported that the peace talks will start June 20 in Tripoli, Libya.

It quoted MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu as saying the peace talks will proceed despite military allegations that his group has been aiding the Abu Sayyaf, the small radical bandit group behind the spate of kidnappings in the southern Philippines.

"We are committed to the peace talks. We have been labeled as rebels but we see the importance of the negotiations," Kabalu had told Radio Mindanao Network.

Kabalu denied his group "had any organizational links or tactical alliances" with the Abu Sayyaf who are still holding nine hostages, including three Americans, it had seized from a posh resort on May 27. Other hostages have been rescued after a military offensive began over the weekend.

Dureza said neither the Abu Sayyaf or an independent Islamic state in Mindanao would be discussed during the talks, the first round of negotiations since both sides signed an accord in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in March.

"Non negotiable are territorial jurisdiction and sovereignty," Dureza told reporters.

AP also quoted Dureza as saying both sides would meet again in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, three weeks after the Tripoli talks. The final agenda for both the Tripoli and Kuala Lumpur negotiations would be announced after June 11, he added.

Kabalu said the Abu Sayyaf had "shamed the name of Islam." On Thursday, he reiterated his group's offer to help the military fight the Abu Sayyaf on Basilan island, a traditional MILF stronghold in southwestern Mindanao. *With an AP report*

Gloria gives P1-M bounty to Lamitan hero's widow

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday handed P1 million to the wife of retired Lt. Col. Fernando Bajet for the killing of a minor Abu Sayyaf leader.

It was not P5 million as had earlier been reported.

The cash reward, according to Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, would be placed in a trust fund for the education of the Bajet's children.

Bajet was killed on Saturday when he confronted Abu Sayyaf leader Yusup Ladjal.

"Bajet was really a hero because he confronted the Abu Sayyaf... They (Bajet and Yusup) had a shootout and in the process both of them were killed," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said in an interview after the simple rites

"He did not have to be there... He was a councilor-elect, he could just have watched the action but he opted to be out there, to fight it out and defend Lamitan from the Abu Sayyaf. This is an example of heroism that must be made as a model for other people. " he added.

Golez clarified that government handed only P1 million from the P100-million bounty because Yusup was not a ranking leader of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The P5-million (reward) is allocated for all members of the Abu Sayyaf high in the order of battle and you can see their faces (on the posters)... All those below would merit a P1 million reward. I think there was a little misunderstanding," he said

The clarification came after Ms Macapagal was asked on Wednesday when the awarding of the P5-million reward would be given.

She had replied that it would be given the next day

Bajet was a retired Army official who ran and won as councilor in Lamitan, Basilan.

According to Soliman, Bajet had formed a civilian volunteer organization in the area

Yesterday, Golez discussed the proposal to arm civilians in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf

Golez expressed support for the idea but added that it should be carefully reviewed to prevent the groups from being used as "private armies."

Malacañang, he also said, was still waiting for the military proposal before acting on it.

"We don't have the details yet. We would like to make sure that this proposal is not going to create private armed groups that themselves would become problems," he said.

"But we see merit in the proposal... If this is meritorious, then of course, we will support it," he added.

'New heroes' hailed

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday lauded Filipino overseas workers saying that their remittances helped the country's gross national product post a 3.6 percent increase this year

The remarks came during the awarding ceremonies of the Bagong Bayani Foundation.

Plaques, medals of recognition and a P10,000 cash reward were given to each of the 11 awardees, all of them overseas workers

"I would like to thank you, and all of the overseas workers through you because yesterday in the Cabinet meeting, we just had a report (that the) net factor income from abroad—a big portion formed by remittances of overseas Filipino workers—increased by 25 percent for the first three months of the year," Ms Macapagal, speaking in Taglish, said in her speech.

"And because of the 25 percent increase... our gross national product increased by 3.6 percent. That is why I am thanking our OFWs," she added.

INQUIRER research placed the country's 2000 GNP at P1009.4 billion, a 4.2 percent increase from the previous year.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal noted that the dollar remittances of the OFWs form a "substantial portion" of the country's growth rate.

"In fact, in several instances, when the economy had a foreign exchange crisis, the consistent dollar inflows saved the economy from collapsing," she added.

This, Ms Macapagal said, was what made the overseas workers the new heroes of the nation.

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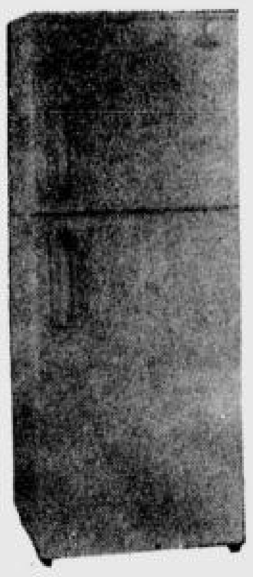

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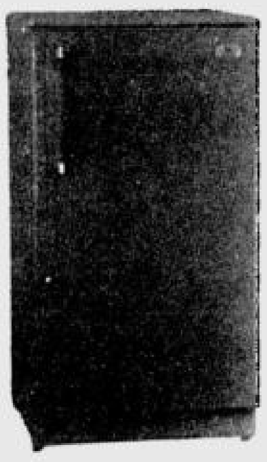

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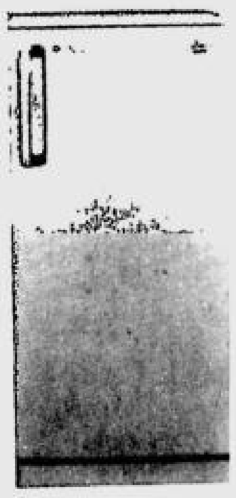

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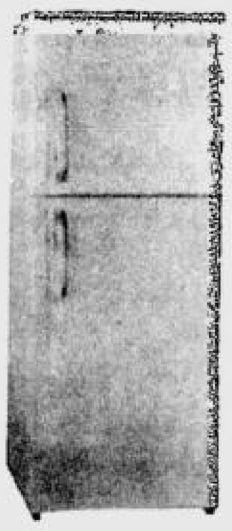

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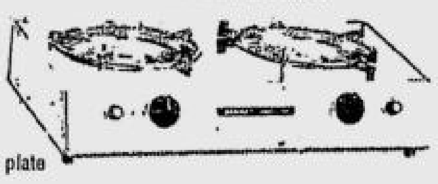

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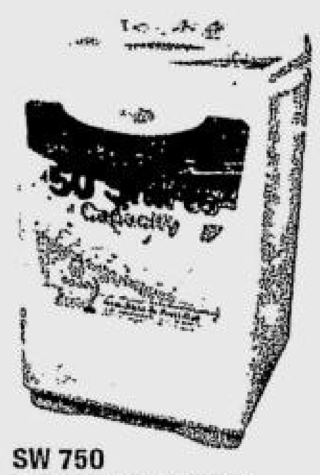

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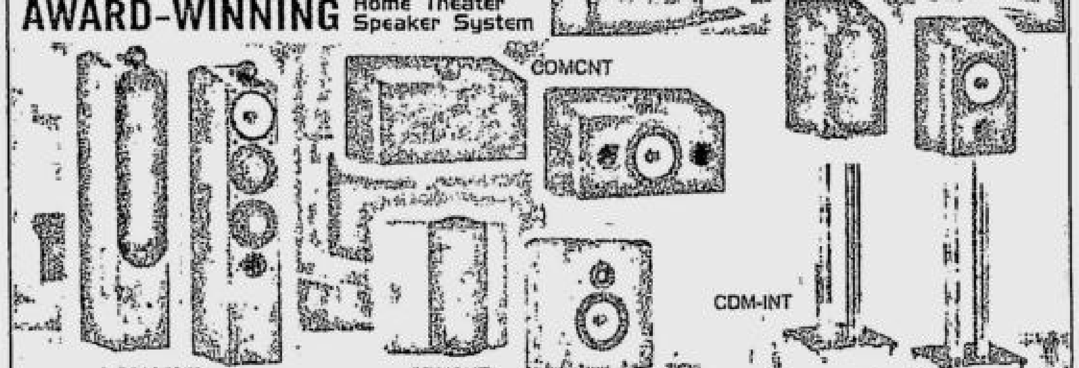

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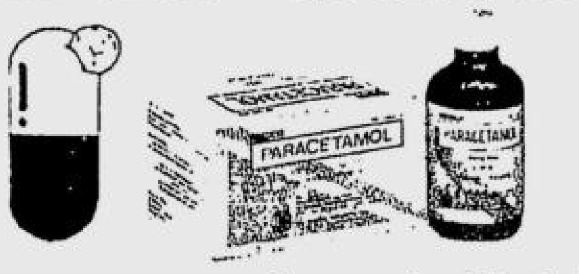

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Mayon folk told to prepare for evacuation

LEGAZPI CITY—Vulcanologists warned residents living on the slopes of the restive Mayon volcano yesterday to be prepared to evacuate, saying the volcano was in a state of mild eruption.

"At present, Mayon volcano is in a mild state of eruption as magma slowly intrudes the summit, subsequently pushing out recent and hot lavas," the Philippine Institute of Vulcanology and Seismology said in a bulletin.

"Residents around the volcano... should always be vigilant and prepared to move out of their areas as soon as evacuation is advised or when life-threatening volcanic flows start to descend from the volcano's summit."

The institute said it was maintaining alert level three around the 2,460-meter high volcano in Albay.

There are two higher levels of alert, with Alert Five signifying an eruption is in progress.

Disaster officials said some 20 army trucks had been on standby since last week to evacuate residents should Mayon erupt.

Mayon, one of the country's 22 active volcanoes, has a history of violent eruptions. The deadliest occurred in 1814 when it buried a town under mud and rocks, killing 1,200 people.

Mayon has been periodically spewing magma or molten rocks which has turned into "lava dome" at the volcano's mouth.

The institute said it had monitored over 100 short-duration tremors around the volcano over the previous 24 hours, triggered by "the intermittent rolling of incandescent volcanic materials and numerous lava avalanches."

The institute said detached fragments from the lava dome had cascaded over the previous 24 hours. Mayon had emitted white steam up to a height of 500 meters, it added.

The institute said a six-km radius from around the crater must remain a no-man's land in case of sudden explosions. *Reuters*

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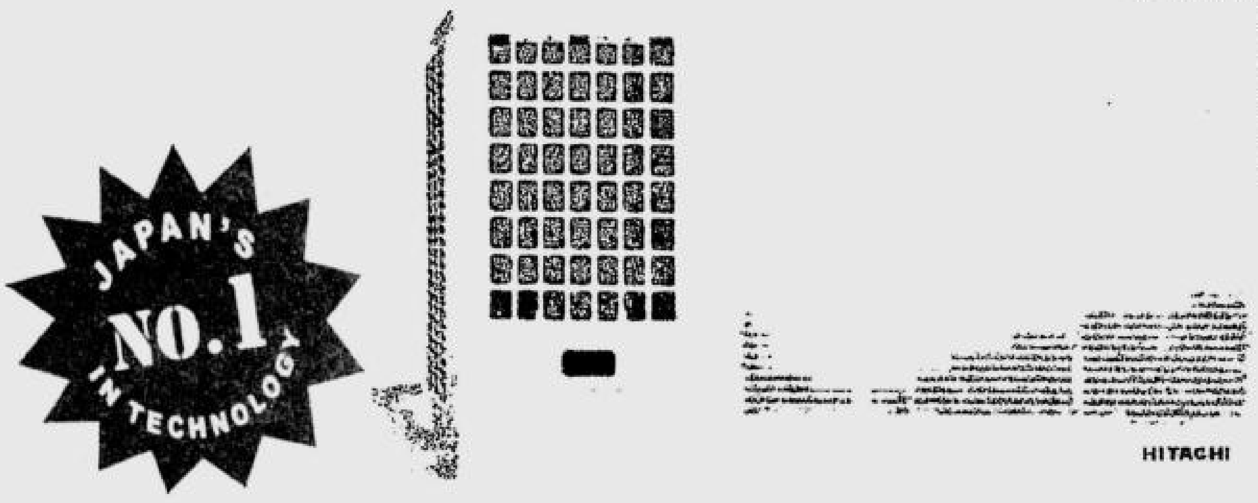

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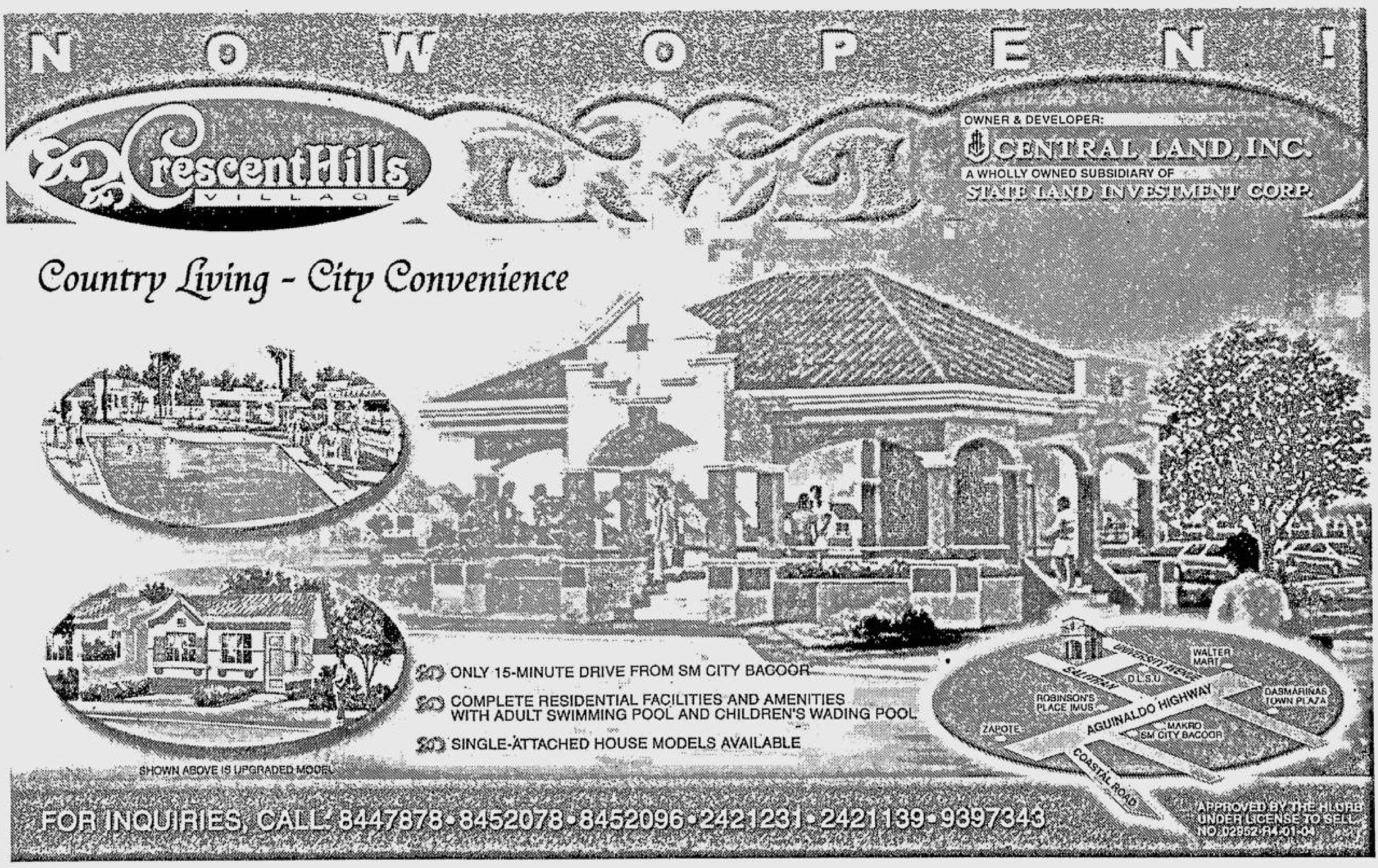

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BANKERS' CALL

President Macapagal-Arroyo receives World Bank officials during a courtesy call in Malacañang. They are (from left) Jemal Ud Din Kassum, vice president for East Asian and the Pacific; Vinay Bhargava, outgoing director for the Philippines; Robert Vance Pulley, incoming country director for the Philippines; and Lloyd McKay, WB lead economist.

POWER BILL AFTERMATH

RP gets $2.5-M WB grant for Mindanao

By Juliet L. Javellana

A DAY after the power reform bill was ratified, the World Bank on Wednesday extended a $2.45 million grant for Mindanao which is reeling from the latest Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also yesterday received jemal-Ud-Din Kassum, World Bank vice president for Far East, Asia and the Pacific Region and conferred the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Maginoo, on World Bank country director Vinay Bhargava in Malacañang.

The privatization of the National Power Corp. and opening of sectors of the power industry were conditions imposed by foreign creditors for the release of fresh loans and assistance for the Philippines.

Where three administrations failed, the four-month-old Macapagal administration succeeded in having the power reform bill—which contains these provisions—ratified by Congress.

A law today

Ms Macapagal was scheduled to sign the power reform bill into law in ceremonies this morning in Malacañang.

On Wednesday night, or after the Senate ratified the measure Tuesday, outgoing Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and Bhargava signed two agreements amounting to $2.45 million grant at the DOF building in Manila.

A Malacañang statement said the grants would be used as assistance for Mindanao's long-term economic and social development.

Romulo, who takes his oath this morning as Executive Secretary, said the WB grant would "bring lasting benefits to the country."

He also reiterated the Macapagal administration's commitment to promote peace and development in Mindanao.

"The grants will help the government address the deep-rooted issues affecting peace and development in the region and render critical interventions to alleviate the dismal living conditions, especially of the sectors most severely victimized by war and poverty," Romulo said.

The first grant involves $1.5 million to be financed by the Japan Social and Development Fund and to be managed by the Fund Management Office of the Special Zone for Peace and Development.

Malacañang said the grant would be given to non-governmental and people's organizations to undertake "capacity-building and micro-finance assistance for community-based projects" and activities of indigenous peoples, women and widows in the SZOPAD area.

50 proposals

Malacañang said that to date, close to 50 proposals from various POs and NGOs have been received with a value of $2.15 million.

The second grant of $950,000 was financed by the WB and was intended to help in the preparation of a long-term peace and development plan for Mindanao.

"It will also finance the needs of the conflict-affected communities in the region and pilot-test approaches enabling evacuees as well as those directly affected by the armed conflict to return to their communities," a Malacanang statement said.

The statement quoted Kassum as saying that on top of the two grants the WB has financed 18 out of 24 WB-assisted projects worth $770 million for health and nutrition services, water, textbooks, roads, irrigation systems, livelihood and other basic needs of the people in Mindanao.

"Peaceful conditions and a Mindanaoan demand driven program are prerequisites for Mindanao's long lasting development," Kassum said.

Bhargava said faster implementation of ongoing Official Development Assistance projects for Mindanao and the two grants were the "need of the hour."

But Bhargava said it was important for the implementing agencies to be adequately staffed and have clear-cut responsibilities and accountabilities.

"Moreover, design and implementation should be based on adequate consultation and feedback mechanisms (which) will be supported by these grants," Bhargava said.

BIR revamp

Romulo issued a statement expressing support for the move of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Banez to reorganize the BIR.

The reorganization, said to be another condition imposed by the International Monetary Fund, was strongly opposed by BIR officials and employees.

"In line with this mandate, I wish to reiterate my full trust and support to the efforts of Commissioner Banez in reorganizing the BIR," said Romulo, who said his first directive as DOF chief was for "good governance."

Romulo said Banez was determined to raise P408 billion in revenues this year.

"In a democratic society such as ours, there are avenues where employees are free to express their grievances. We are equally committed to respect their rights and we shall remain open to listen to their problems and suggestions," Romulo said.

Concert for a shrine

INTERNATIONAL pianist Raul M. Sunico and two of the country's most sought-after classical artists, soprano Lorna Llames and tenor Jonathan Badon, will perform in a concert on June 16 to raise funds for the construction of the Birhen sa Kasilak Shrine in Butuan.

Residents of Butuan Cuty and Agusan are sponsoring the concert at the Camp Aguinaldo Theater inside Camp Aguinaldo. The concert starts at 7 p.m.

Llames and Badon have just wrapped up a successful concert tour dubbed "On Wings of Song 2000" all over the United States with the Music Foundation of the Philippines under artistic director Fides Santos Cuyugan.

Tickets to the concert, priced at P500, P300, P200, P100, may be obtained by calling the office of Dr. Antonio Montalban, Tel. No. 832-0485 or 522-5062;

The office of Jose Mordero 911-0832 to 34 or 523-6905 or 521-3601; Mr. Ike Señeres 920-7420 or 920-0101 (trunkline) and at the Camp Aguinaldo Theater before the show.

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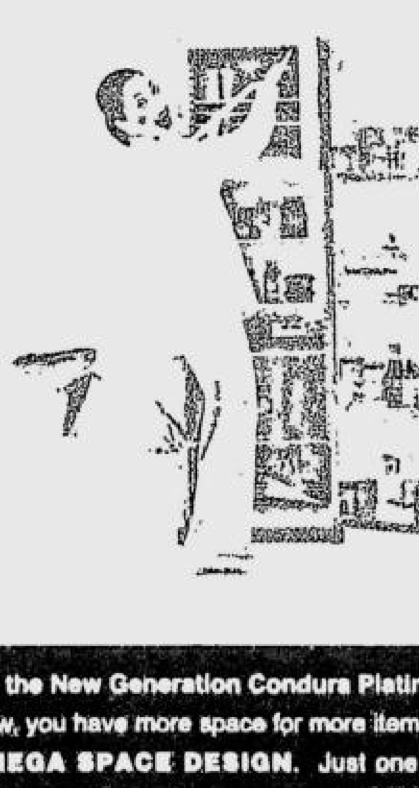

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Think tank says Power Bill to result in higher power bills

By A. Echavez

DESPITE the reduction in power rates as mandated in the Omnibus Power Reform Bill, higher electricity bills are inevitable.

This was the warning aired yesterday by the Ibon Foundation, a private think-tank, citing an Asian Development Bank report.

The ADB report had said the withdrawal of government subsidies in certain areas of power distribution would result in increased electricity costs.

"This simply means that the cross subsidies that were abolished under the power reform bill had a direct effect on power rates," Ibon said in a statement.

It said the provision in the bill for a universal charge to end-users, aside from the controversial purchase power adjustment (PPA), could only mean higher power rates.

"As if this were not enough, the rate charges of electricity suppliers will also be deregulated. This implies that the regulation of generation and distribution rates will be useless as it is the end-users who will have to deal with the suppliers who could dictate prices at will," Ibon warned.

The power reform bill, which was years in the making, was finally passed by Congress over the weekend.

It was strongly endorsed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as a panacea for the country's ailing and expensive electricity generation and distribution system.

The President, in TV ads, assured the public electric rates would go down and the power distribution system would improve with the passage of the bill which would privatize the government's National Power Corp.

Napocor has consistently racked up losses that reportedly now account for over 50 percent of the government budget deficit.

Ibon said the government's vision of lowered rates as a result of domestic competition "is wishful thinking."

Ibon said the country's experience with deregulation has shown that corporations "would think of every opportunity to jack up profits."

"Power, just like oil, is a necessity and people need to avail of it even if the prices are high. Capitalists see this situation and plan accordingly to ensure higher returns on their investments," it added.

Militant groups, meantime, vowed to continue their fight against the power reform bill before the Supreme Court and in the streets.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Bayan Muna, Kilusang Mayo Uno and allied organizations said they would question the bill before the high tribunal.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition, Sanlakas and Akbayan questioned the legality of the bill's passage in both houses of Congress.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya called the bill a "betrayal of the national patrimony and public trust done through behest legislation."

"We hope the high tribunal sees this glaring irresponsibility of the government and those who passed this shotgun piece of legislation," said Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

Sambajon said the mere fact that President Macapagal herself had once admitted the power bill might not really curb high electricity rates only proves that it will not serve the interest of consumers.

Sambajon said the President still has a "big chance to redeem herself" by vetoing the bill once the 11th Congress submits it for her signature.

"This is the only way, unless she prefers a protracted battle in the high tribunal, in the streets and in the arena of public opinion," he warned.

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DENR hears petition against mining firm

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has started the review of the permit it gave a controversial mining firm in Mindoro Oriental following howls of protest from residents affected by the mining operation.

In conducting the first of a series of public hearings on the case, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez said that while the government was for the creation of more wealth, it must, however, give priority to the environment and human health.

The DENR secretary earlier recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo the revocation of the Aglubang Mineral Production and Sharing Agreement (MPSA) for alleged violation of existing laws and regulations.

On Wednesday afternoon, the DENR started hearing complaints against the controversial Mindoro Nickel Mining Project of Mindex/Crew Development Corp./Aglubang Mining Corp. in Victoria, Mindoro Oriental which was issued by his predecessor.

"A great bulk of any government's wealth comes from the sustainable use of natural resources from the bowels of the earth," Alvarez said.

"While we recognize that the Philippine economy has been lagging behind its Asian counterparts and this wealth could easily be harnessed, it is, however, our sworn duty as public servants to promote development not at the expense of the lives of the Filipino people and the environment," he added.

The hearing at the DENR was marked by heated debates from anti- and pro-mining panels. Hundreds of anti-mining advocates also rallied front of the DENR building in Quezon City while the hearing was going on.

Alvarez assured those present in the hearing that he will not be intimidated by any striking group and that he will remain open to all sides and consider all arguments before making a final decision.

Present during the hearing were groups opposing the mining operation led by Gov. Rodolfo Valencia, Rep. Alfonso Umali, Fr. Edwin Gariguez of the Apostolic Vicar of Calapan City, five municipal mayors and local officials of towns expected to be affected by the mining operations, non-governmental organizations, indigenous tribes.

Representing the pro-mining operation were Aglubang Mining chair Ann Isberg and its president Henryn Fernandez, Crew Minerals president lawyer Benny Bengson; Association of Barangay Council president Emma Burgos; barangay officials and pro-mining residents.

Salcedo, 83

JOSE Salcedo y Leyesa of Tiaong, Quezon and Paco, Manila, died on Monday of heart failure. He was 83.

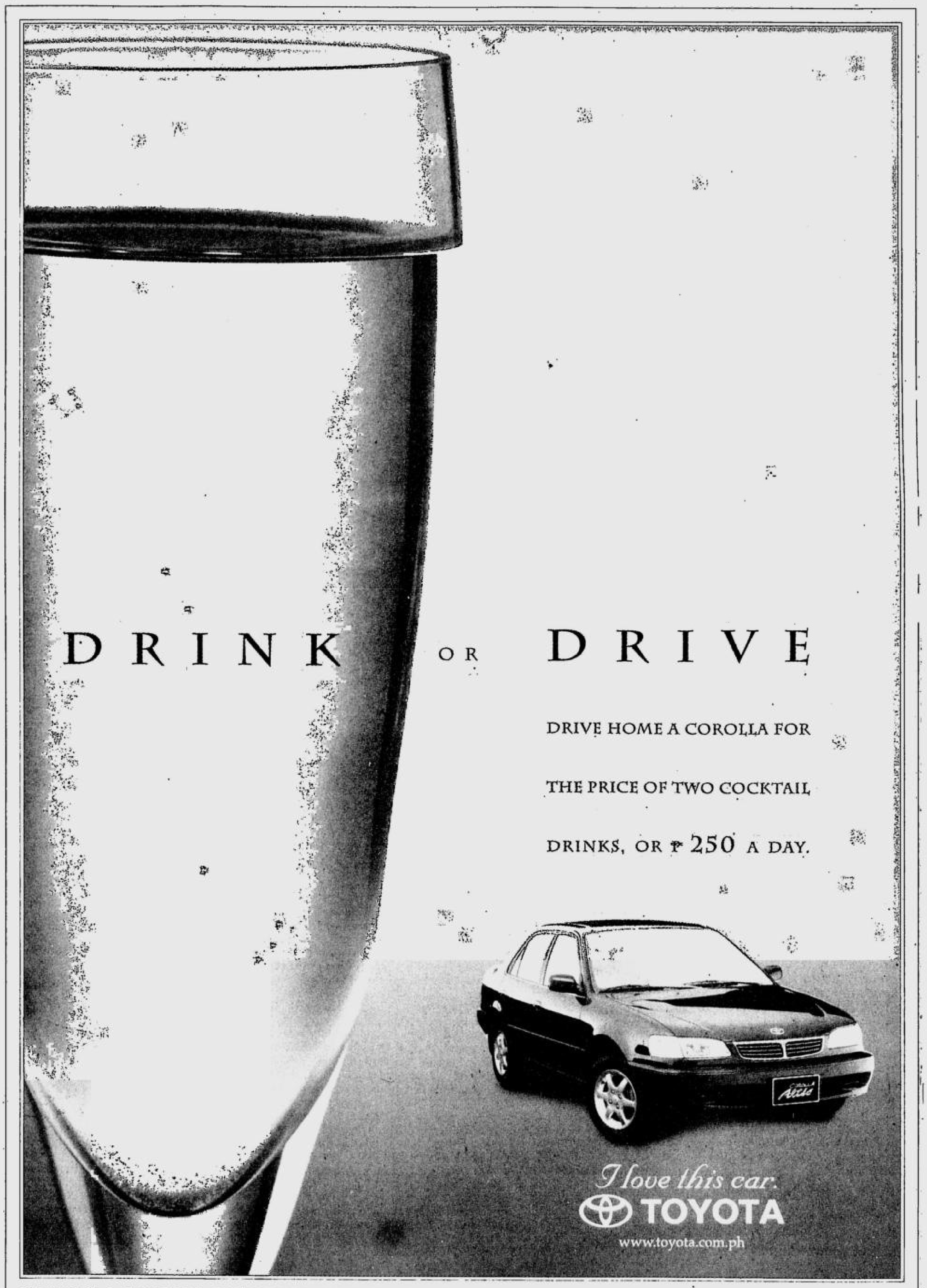
A World War II veteran, Salcedo saw action as a guerrilla fighter with Gen. Vicente Umali's unit in Tiaong, Quezon.

After the war, he served as chief of the backpay division of the Philippine Veterans Board Administration until his retirement.

Married to the late Presen Garcia of Paco's OWL unit, he leaves behind seven children, Edgardo, Augusto, Octavio, Rebecca, Roberto, Vicente, Rosario, 25 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters and other relatives.

His remains lie at the conference room (2nd floor) of the Confraternity of the Holy Sepulchre (Cofradia) of the Paco parish.

He will be transferred to the San Fernando de Dilao Paco parish church tomorrow for the 7 a.m. Mass prior to his interment at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.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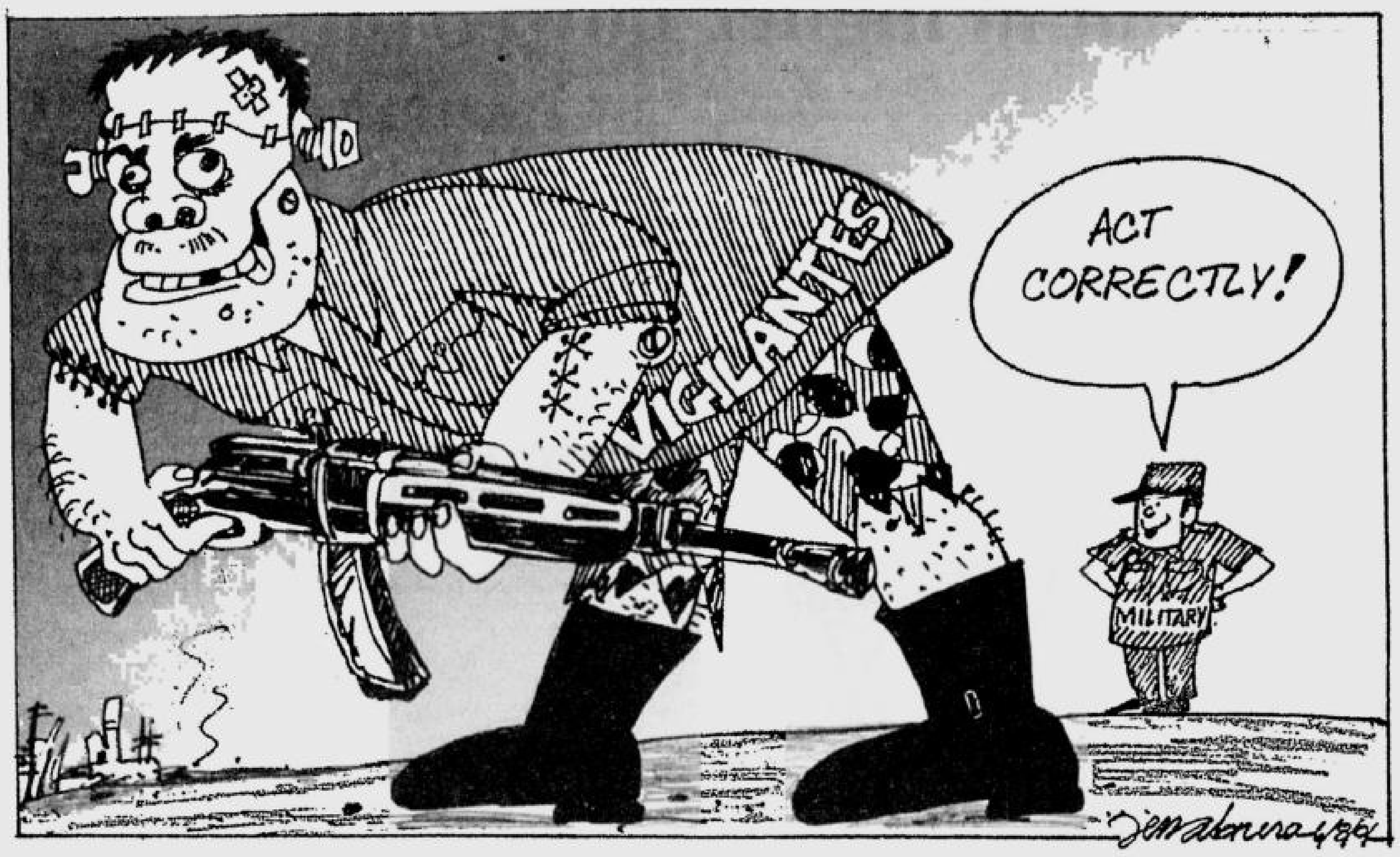

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Premature disclosure

EDITORIAL

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez said Monday that Supt. Glenn Dumlao, a key suspect in the kidnapping and murder of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito, had linked former PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson to the case. "It appears that the former PNP director general was one of the masterminds," Perez announced at a press briefing. But apparently contradicting himself, Perez also acknowledged that "the case is not yet over until we find out who the masterminds are." Government investigators would still be asking Dumlao's cooperation in identifying who they were, he added.

Dumlao's arrest was without doubt a major breakthrough in the solution of the case. Dumlao has allegedly admitted that he interrogated Dacer in Cavite shortly after he was abducted by several police officers along Osmeña Highway, near the boundary of Makati and Manila, on Nov. 24 last year. Some policemen and civilian agents, who were arrested earlier, are said to have identified Dumlao as the police official who gave the order to kill Dacer and Corbito.

But whether Dumlao actually pointed to Lacson as the mastermind or one of the masterminds is not so clear now. Perez himself seems to be less categorical, explaining rather lamely that what he disclosed to the public on Monday was what Dumlao had told government lawyers. He admitted that Dumlao had not executed any affidavit implicating Lacson, and he couldn't even be sure if the police officer's lawyers would let him sign such an affidavit. So what was all that talk about pinpointing the mastermind? There must be a better way of solving sensational cases than presenting suspects and pronouncing such cases solved. Cases are built on the basis of evidence gathered and testimony received, not wishful thinking.

In going on half-cocked with his accusations against Lacson, Perez just made the administration vulnerable to charges of political persecution. Lacson, despite being new in the game, now seems to eat and breathe politics. Reacting to Perez's revelation, Lacson charged that it was part of Malacañang's plot to deny him the Senate seat he won the in the recent elections. He also accused Perez of using the Dacer case as a bargaining chip to ensure his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

Both claims are, of course, shot full of holes if not completely illogical. For how could Malacañang have kept Lacson from being proclaimed senator with such an allegation, when the government could not bar the proclamation of Romeo Jalosjos, a convicted rapist, as a member of the House of Representatives? And why would anyone who seeks confirmation by the CA antagonize any lawmaker?

In trying to give the investigation of the Dacer case a political color, Lacson and his media handlers are apparently trying to divert the public's attention from the all-important question: Who was responsible for that horrible crime?

At this point, what has been clearly established from the accounts of witnesses and some of those who took part in the abduction and murder of Dacer and Corbito is that the crime was carried out by police officers and civilian agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. This "elite" anti-crime body (which has since been abolished) was planned and organized by Lacson who personally handpicked its officers. If only for this, Lacson has at least a moral responsibility for the crimes committed by the men he picked.

Another curious thing that has emerged from the investigation is that the whole operation was compartmentalized, with one group doing the abduction, another doing the interrogation, still another doing the killings, etc. Also, the officers and men who carried them out came from different units of the PAOCTF. All of which suggests that somebody high up in the organization coordinated the whole thing.

Who? Government investigators apparently have their favorite suspects. But pinning him down is the hardest part of all. If it is true that Dumlao has implicated Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, then the investigation is really going somewhere. The two police officers are among Lacson's most trusted lieutenants. They were with him from the time of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, and together they were implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre. Still, assigning guilt by association is not the way the courts decide cases.

It may take a lot of further sleuthing and all of their persuasive skills before the authorities can get the kind of evidence and testimony that will pin down the mastermind. But if they can get him, it will be worth all their time and effort. For in this case, nothing less than the people's faith in our law-enforcement agencies is at stake.

Comelec flip-flops again in Roman and Tolentino cases

(Continued from yesterday)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

GOING back to the cases against Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman and Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino, they did not "succeed" their predecessors but were "elected" to their positions. Although they did not serve their first terms in full, they were counted as one full term. With their reelections in 1995 and 1998, they were deemed to have served three full consecutive terms and were therefore disqualified to run for a fourth term.

In their defense, Roman and Tolentino cited the Borja vs. Comelec and the Lozanida vs. Comelec cases wherein the Supreme Court reversed Comelec decisions disqualifying the defendants. But these cases do not apply to the Roman and Tolentino cases.

In the Borja case, Jose T. Capco, duly elected vice mayor of Pateros in 1988, assumed the mayoral post upon the death of Mayor Cesar Borja in 1989. Capco ran for reelection and won in 1992 and 1995. When he ran in 1998, a petition for disqualification was filed against him on the basis of the three-term limit rule. The Supreme Court declared that the term from 1988 to 1992 should not be counted as one full term because he became mayor not by election but by succession.

Both Roman and Tolentino, however, were elected to their positions.

In the Lozanida case, Romeo Lozanida served two consecutive terms as mayor, 1988-1992 and 1992-1995. When he ran in the 1995 elections for the same post, he was proclaimed the winner. His opponent, Juan Alvez, filed an election protest with the regional trial court which declared a failure of elections. Both appealed to the Comelec, which declared Alvez the duly elected mayor, thereby unseating Lozanida. Alvez served the unexpired portion of the term. When Lozanida ran for mayor in 1998, a disqualification case was filed against him invoking the three-term limit rule. But the Supreme Court ruled that the term from 1995 to 1998 could not be counted as one term for Lozanida because his proclamation was subsequently declared null and void and that although he served a portion of that term, he was eventually unseated by his opponent.

The Lozanida case, however, is the opposite of the Tolentino case. Lozanida was initially proclaimed the winner but was later unseated by the Comelec who declared his opponent the real winner.

In the Tolentino case, it was his rival who was initially declared the winner. Tolentino assumed the mayoral post only after the Supreme Court eventually declared him as the duly elected mayor. The difference between the two cases is very obvious. It is clear that Tolentino had already served three terms and is therefore disqualified from running for a fourth.

That was exactly the ruling of the Comelec's First Division, disqualifying Tolentino in SPA 01-035. Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Rufino Javier decided against Tolentino. Commissioner Resureccion Borra dissented.

But, wonder of wonders, the Comelec en banc made a complete turnaround in its resolution of May 24. It set aside the earlier resolution and declared Tolentino qualified to run for mayor in the May 14 elections.

In its resolution, the en banc completely disregarded the detailed reasoning of the First Division. It did not even touch on the opinion of Con-Con delegates Joaquin Bernas and Hilario Davide Jr. that if an official is elected to serve the unexpired term of another, "that term, no matter how short, will be considered one term for purposes of computing the number of terms allowed."

Instead, the en banc disposed of the case in one paragraph, without discussion or justification.

Although the facts show otherwise, it ruled:

"On the basis of these facts, we are bound to withhold application of the three-term limit. Respondent was elected for three consecutive terms, but due to circumstances beyond his control, he failed to serve the full term due his office in the election of 1992. Our position is in keeping with the constitutional policy that the people's freedom of choice should not be unduly restricted."

The resolution was written by Commissioner Ralph Lantion. Surprisingly, the two commissioners who promulgated the resolution that was reversed, Tancangco and Javier, concurred in the en banc resolution. Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo inhibited himself.

In the Roman case, the present Comelec en banc also overturned previous Comelec decisions, including an en banc ruling on Sept. 3, 1998, in SPA 98-198 titled "Onofre Cruz vs. Leonardo Roman" and reiterated in "Virgilio Bautista and Danilo Magdalera vs. Roman," which stated:

"Respondent Roman was not elected governor of Bataan during the 1992 elections which would have been his second consecutive term. His assumption to office as governor of Bataan after he was elected as such during the 1993 recall elections was to serve the unexpired term of then Governor Garcia. His second term was from 1995 to 1998 when he was elected governor of Bataan during the 1995 regular elections. His third consecutive term starts on June 30, 1998 when he takes his oath of office again as governor of Bataan during the last May 11, 1998 elections."

In the present en banc's turnaround, it said that the recall election was not counted as a full term. It said that recall elections are not regular elections, adding that it had overturned the ruling in Adormeo vs. Talaga wherein the First Division declared that a recall election may be counted as a full term on the principle that a term is indivisible.

This goes against the pronouncements of the Supreme Court in the Borja case as well as those of Commissioners Bernas and Davide that the three-term limit rule applies in special elections.

Anyway, the Roman and Tolentino cases have been elevated t o the Supreme Court. Let's hope that the tribunal finally lays down the definitive decision on cases like them. This will not be the first time that the tribunal reyerses a Comelec ruling.

The waist watcher

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

IN A NATION struggling against poverty and hunger, it is not only embarrassing to have a weight problem, it seems downright indecent. But not unusual. The Third World has been described by one ambassador as any place where 90 percent of the population is dying of malnutrition while the other 10 percent is dying of indigestion.

To be fair, fat is a problem that knows no boundaries, ideology or religion. Mao Zedong and Leonid Brezhnev both looked like refugees fleeing from a Jane Fonda workout. The Conservative Maggie Thatcher is thin; the Socialist Francois Mitterand looked positively prosperous.

The Supreme Pontiffs of the 20th century, despite a reputation for austere and saintly lives, have almost always alternated between the thin and the, well, hefty: thin Leo XIII, hefty St. Pius X, thin Benedict XV, hefty Pius XI, thin Pius XII, very hefty John XXIII, thin Paul VI. The cycle was finally broken by thin John Paul I, who, however, was succeeded by hefty John Paul II. Under this theory, the next pope, whatever else he may be, will be thin. For historical balance, it can be remembered that both Martin Luther and the pontiff of his day, the Medici Leo X, were men of girth.

History is no guide. The problem of course is that society doesn't want anyone to look like Winston Churchill, only to act like him. It wants me to look like the current movie idol or have the waistline of the model who advertises underwear for a living. Fat chance (which, funny enough, means the same as slim chance in English)! As I hover on this side of 50 (whether age or inches, modesty, not to mention vanity, prevents me from telling), the chances are I will eventually look like Churchill, at least in immensity but without the saving grace of greatness.

My friends tell me the added weight makes me look more distinguished, helps give me *gravitas*. But I respond that the only *gravitas* that I feel is on the soles of my feet.

I therefore have unbridled sympathy for John XXIII's famous lament: "The Good Lord knew from all eternity I would become Pope; couldn't He at least have made me a little more photogenic?" I am more fortunate. The editor of this paper, being interested in more sales, not less, has had the good sense to crop my picture below the neck. Meantime, I fight the battle of the bulge.

My problem is like the famous one about smoking ("It is easy to quit smoking, I have done it hundreds of times."). I can take it off or put it on—mostly the latter—but I can't keep it off. It seems my body was absent when the concept of inertia was taught in high school. Consequently, I am either growing from side to side or slimming down. Either way, I tell people I am on a diet, which is true because it is either a high-fat or low-fat diet and never a just-right meal. As one gets past 30, one eats less but gains weight more quickly. It is murder to take it off. I used to lap 3 kilometers daily for 10 years, to no visible effect, except to whet my appetite. I am more sensible now.

Not everyone is unhappy over this state of affairs. Not my tailor, whom I keep busy. And certainly not a friend who has a mysterious and joyful twinkle in his eyes every time he sees me. It perplexed me until serendipity appeared the day I visited his clinic. He is a cosmetic surgeon and when he sees me, he is looking at a prospective client the way a hungry cat looks at a canary. Unlike him, I am convinced the battle is not yet lost and so, like Avis, I try harder, though as yet without success.

Unfortunately, I belong to the wrong classification of people. Some folks can't eat when they are tense. Others take out their tension on food. Since I am both high-strung and a model of overnourishment, you can draw your own conclusions. I assure all and sundry, however, that it is definitely not fat they see, it is soft muscle. While there is still hope I wish to avoid the size and fate of G.K. Chesterton. Chesterton to G.B. Shaw: "Shaw, one look at you and people will think there is a famine in England." Shaw to Chesterton: "Chesterton, one look at you and they will know who caused it."

So I try dieting. That means plenty of diet cola I am beginning to see my mistakes. I thought having one diet cola allowed me to spend the "saved" calories eating something else. The more diet cola I drank, the more I "saved" so the more I could afford to eat. Just like "saving" all that money at the supermarket on sale days by spending more! With all that money "saved," why is the bank account overdrawn?

Should neither logic nor willpower ultimately save me, I shall blame genetics for it all. How else can I explain why others who eat substantially more than I do and do not exercise remain thin as reeds? No matter how it is explained, it isn't fair. I may eat less and exercise more. I may even be healthier than they are, though I doubt it. But the important thing is, they look healthier than me.

There is one other scapegoat possible. I think it may be all the advertisers' fault. They advertise fat babies as healthy babies. (Remember all those cute smiling babies with multiple folds of fat advertising assorted brands of milk?) Then they switch and portray thin adults to be healthy. (They ain't marketing milk no more. This time it is suntan lotion, fashionable clothes and health food.) Has anyone ever told them that fat babies grow up to be fat adults? So I ask you, now what am I supposed to do?

Last refuge of scoundrels

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WITH APOLOGIES to Samuel Johnson, the Philippine Congress, like patriotism, has become the last refuge of scoundrels. The legislature is an institution whose *raison d'être* in a democracy is to write laws and serve as a forum where men and women engage in intelligent debate for the purpose of illuminating the mind of the public, let alone their constituencies, about the issues of the day.

This deliberative function of the legislature seems to have been lost on a number of people who were elected to Congress last May. Among these are Sen. Gregorio Honasan (reelected), Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson, and Representative-elect Mark Jimenez of the sixth district of Manila.

No sooner had the Commission on Elections proclaimed the election of Honasan to the Senate than Honasan announced that he would seek vengeance on the administration that poised to arrest him and Lacson in connection with the May 1 rebellion.

Showing that he has learned more quickly to use the coercive weapons of the Senate rather than to write wise laws, Honasan said that he would seek a Senate investigation into threats by the justice department to arrest him and to block President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's appointments, including that of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. Honasan appears to have no qualms about using the Senate as a weapon for retaliation and guerrilla warfare against the administration.

Honasan and Lacson disappeared, virtually becoming fugitives from justice, when President Macapagal ordered the arrest of their colleagues, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda after they were implicated in the May 1 rebellion. Honasan did not show up until close to his proclamation as elected senator, thinking that his election has given him immunity from arrest. He and Lacson went underground, reinforcing the perception of the authorities that they were guilty of conspirational activity in the storming of the seat of state power.

Honasan's first term in the Senate has been distinguished for his maintaining a discreet silence in that debating chamber. But when he served notice that he would use the investigatory power of the Senate to get back at the government, he demonstrated that his idea of investigation is far from using it "in aid of legislation." He wants to use it as a weapon "in aid" of retaliation. From his record, Honasan is at his best when he is plotting conspiracies to overthrow the government. He was the architect of at least six coup plots on the Aquino administration. His term in the Senate has not seemed to erase his putschist tendencies, although military reports showed that when he tried to organize troops to back the May rebellion, he had disappointing results in his recruitment efforts. Honasan should be more at home plotting coups and staying underground rather than sit in the Senate where more civilized forms of confrontations—i.e., of ideas—are useful for the public good.

In regard to Lacson, he gave himself away with his first post-election statement interpreting his election as a "vindication" in the face of the kidnapping and murder charges filed against him and several others in connection with the abduction of seven Chinese businessmen, two of whom were killed in 1998 and 1999. It is true that these charges were public knowledge during the election campaign, but it is inventing a strange doctrine to say that his election has wiped out a pending case under investigation by the justice department. Election never erases liability for or provides immunity from prosecution of criminal cases.

Lacson has never disguised his ambitions to run for president of the Philippines in 2004, with law and order as his mobilizing issue. A president, however, needs more capacity than addressing law and order to run a country well. His election to the Senate could serve as his platform for 2004. But the more compelling reason for his obsessive quest for a Senate seat is that the chamber provides him a shield against criminal prosecution and the platform to retaliate against his enemies.

Hard on the heels of his election, Jimenez has swiftly found allies in the House supporting his bid to evade arrest and extradition to the United States. The US government has requested the Philippine government extradite him to face charges of fraud, tax evasion and illegal campaign contribution.

His backers, including former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, claim that arresting and extraditing are not only unfair but would also deprive his constituency of representation in the House. Why he was elected despite the charges is a function of our flawed election process. It can't be argued that Jimenez was elected because he has superior credentials to contribute to raising the quality of legislation. But already, one thing is clear: Jimenez's election serves his interest first—that of staving off extradition—ahead of delivering results to his electorate or enhancing the public confidence in the legislature.

The best reply to this move comes from Rep. Robert Arce who said that Congress "is not a haven for fugitives." With their concept of the rule of law, it is doubtful whether the Americans would now abandon the effort to let him face charges in the United States because of his being elected to the House.

Far from improving Congress' role as a deliberative assembly, regular democratic elections have degraded the legislature into a weapon for political blackmail and a sanctuary of fugitives from justice. Elections have produced the phenomenon of a congressman (Rep. Romeo Jalosjos) who has been reelected for another term while serving sentence for statutory rape—without attending a single session in the House and participating in committee work. We have always been led to believe that Congress is the place where representatives of the people debate legislation, and yet Jalosjos has not performed this function at all. We have, through electoral results, redefined the function of Congress in a democracy so that it can now be used as a bludgeon to protect fugitives.

Bush to talk to North Korea, but still distrusts Kim

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stephen Collinson

WASHINGTON—Despite opening the way to talks with North Korea, President George W. Bush shows no sign he is ready to shed his deep suspicion of the isolated communist nation's leader Kim Jong-il.

Bush's announcement Wednesday that he had instructed aides to talk to Pyongyang for the first time in his presidency by launching "serious discussions" nevertheless left a sheaf of questions unanswered as to the scope and pace of the dialogue.

He said in a statement that talks would focus on a 1994 deal which ended Pyongyang's nuclear program, its missile threat and missile exports and huge one-million strong military garrison.

But only when the details of the approach is fleshed out, will it be possible to assess the chances of an end to the standoff between North Korea and the United States and South Korea, one of the last vestiges of the Cold War.

An analyst familiar with the administration's thinking said the character of the dialogue would be sharply different from the breakneck pace of engagement on North Korea's missile program at the end of former President Bill Clinton's second term.

One obvious advantage enjoyed by the Bush team is that it has the luxury of years ahead to implement its policy—Clinton's aides were fighting against time quickly ebbing away at the end of his presidency.

Clinton's team says it fell just short of clinching a deal on ending Pyongyang's missile program.

But Bush's advisers say that proposed pact lacked sufficient guarantees.

The new president's team will therefore stress reciprocity and set Pyongyang clear conditions on a wide range of areas before it can expect concessions from the United States, the analyst said speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Here's the deal—we do this, you do that, unless you do that, we ain't gonna do this," said the analyst characterizing the likely tone of US conversations with Pyongyang.

"I think that there is going to be a real focus on performance, things that make a difference, things we can count, that's more of a hard-nosed pragmatic tactical approach to these negotiations."

And the carrot of a presidential visit to Pyongyang, eyed eagerly but finally rejected by Clinton, has apparently finally receded into the distance.

Far more is at stake than the credibility of the Bush administration.

If the talks fail, or drag on without genuine progress, Bush may still be remembered as the man who signed the death warrant for the "Sunshine Policy" of engagement of South Korean President Kim Dae-jung.

Frustrated that the Cold War-thaw that saw former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright venture behind North Asia's iron curtain last year had slowed, Kim Jong-il put the brake on contacts with South Korea.

"If Kim's 'Sunshine policy' depends on progress in US-North Korean relations not just the two talking to each other, he is in trouble," said another analyst also requesting anonymity in order to preserve his contacts with administration officials.

Bush's approach could take months to show results, even if it succeeds.

"It is highly likely there will probably be no progress for at least the next six months to a year," said the second analyst.

"The issue is, is that sufficient or not in terms of keeping that process going on the peninsula?"

Most observers believe the Bush policy will focus on a much wider set of issues than the Clinton-era concentration on Pyongyang's missile and nuclear programs.

The current administration will consider whether their eventual aim is not just to end North Korea's missile program, but also to promote change in its crumbling Stalinist system.

Bush aides will be concerned with preventing Kim Jong-il from using foreign aid to battle North Korea's famine while maintaining huge military expenditures—what has been called the "butter versus guns" argument.

It will also want to negotiate toward cuts in the million-strong North Korean army.

The administration is also looking at the Agreed Framework, the 1994 deal which froze work at reactors amid fears North Korea could produce nuclear weapons, in return for light water reactors funded by an international consortium.

Some analysts here have been calling for a renegotiation of the deal, claiming it is unworkable, but opponents of that approach say it is too late to make changes.

Further ahead, officials in the White House and State Department conducting the review must consider if changes are necessary to the US presence in Korea, and its role in Asian security, guarded by 100,000 US troops in the region. *AFP*

Historical antecedents

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AT A RECENT dinner at the French Embassy, rude guests compared the ambassador, Gilles Chouraqui, with his portrait on the wall done by Allan Cosio. Almost everyone agreed that if we are to go by the portrait (probably made to flatter the sitter) then the ambassador has aged considerably since we first met him two years ago. Surely, the ambassador is not stressed-out by its annual cultural blitz known as the "French Spring in Manila." While the French Spring keeps the ambassador on his feet at cocktails and ribbon-cutting, this cannot compare with the aggravation that came with the negotiations over the French hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf from Sipadan. Thanking him for dinner, I remarked that he was lucky there were no French tourists at Dos Palmas when the Abu Sayyaf struck again and his relieved smile reached ear to ear.

For the past two weeks, at dinners like these, I start to get uneasy when the conversation shifts to the Abu Sayyaf raid on Dos Palmas because some sober guest will take the fun out of the jokes and ask me for historical antecedents. Mindanao is not my area of expertise and it is hard to explain to the rest of the table that I am not a walking encyclopedia like Ernie Baron. When all heads turn to me they don't want an opinion on the current situation, they want a quick historical overview on Muslim Mindanao. These questions, however, made me remember all the little watchtowers I have seen over the years hugging the coasts of Ilocos, Cebu and Bohol built during three centuries of Spanish colonization. These neglected structures were reminders of a time when slave raiders terrorized the Visayas and even parts of Luzon. The Abu Sayyaf raids, with its high-powered guns and seacraft, are simply the 21st-century version of a human trade that had been going on for centuries.

To remedy my ignorance, I turned to the most informative work on colonial watchtowers, forts, walls and fortified churches in the Philippines, "Fortress of Empire" by the footloose Jesuit Fr. Rene Javellana. It is a beautifully designed book aimed at a non-academic general reader. And, if you are too lazy to read, the photographs by Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan will take you on a visual tour of the best fortifications visited by them from Batânes to South Cotabato. An added feature to the work is that some ruins of fortifications have been recreated in drawings to show what they looked like and how they functioned in their time. For me, the interest lay in quotes from 16th-19th century primary source texts that were placed on the margins of the book so that these would not interfere with the flow of the main text, but supplement it.

None of the pre-Spanish fortifications have survived to our day, but there are a number of 16th-century sources that describe these. For example, I am familiar with a part of present-day Intramuros built over the wooden palisades of Rajah Soliman by the Pasig. Javellana quotes an anonymous Spanish report of 1578 on the pacification of the natives of Betis, Pampanga that led to the dismantling of their forts. An earlier report of 1571 records:

"Since these were the first natives we encountered who had forts and defended themselves, I will here describe the kind of forts and weapons they have. The first two forts we came across were square and had four corners and each side of the fortification had ten to twelve culverins...They had embankments that were two *estados* high and they had a moat that was two and a half *brazas* deep. The hand-carried [weapons] used by these natives are lances of poor tempered iron which got bent upon hitting a reasonably hard armor. They had some daggers with wide blades and arrows that are of poor quality. They make use of lances made from the hard part of the palms with burnt tips that are more effective than the ones of iron. In many places they have a supply of poisonous herbs into which they dip the tips of their arrows. These are the kind of weapons that the natives of these islands possess and use."

Filipinos today will find it hard to even imagine slaves and slave raiding in the Philippines except for stray news about attacks on fishing boats, luxury yachts, or lone freighters that had inadequate crew and weapons to defend themselves. You think of slave raiders and you can understand why some colonial churches were so massive with very small windows. You imagine everyone running inside the church at a given signal and wait and pray for the raid to be over. In the church of Dauis, Bohol they even have a freshwater spring by the altar enough to sustain people for days while inside. All churches and fortifications I have seen over the years suddenly made sense after the Abu Sayyaf attacks on Sipadan and Dos Palmas. In the past, slave raiders left the old and infirm, they took strong individuals for work and pretty women for comfort. Today's captives may be toned and tanned but they are not suitable for heavy labor, however, they are still commodities to be traded for hard cash or bartered for weapons. From the ruins of colonial fortifications we get a glimpse into another world.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu.edu.ph

How I voted

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

I VOTED sparingly in the May 14 elections, choosing only one candidate among the senatorial aspirants. I rejected everybody else because they represent the country's social and political establishment.

This country is aching to be governed by people who truly represent the lower social classes, particularly the poorest. This country will never enjoy general peace and contentment without representatives of the underprivileged occupying seats of power.

From the looks of it, it will take a long time before the "voiceless and powerless" gain a foothold in the hallways of power. The last elections don't augur well for any hope of positive change for the poor.

Political dynasties continue to sprout from the political landscape. Three-termer fathers step aside to let either their wives or children run to keep their positions within the family. Brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins vie for different positions in their bailiwicks to keep their hold on local politics. It didn't help that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo let her son Mikey run for vice governor of Pampanga, despite her rhetoric, about "new politics."

A scan of the political landscape will confirm that most of the recent winners belong to rich families, entrenched political factions or powerful business affiliations. Just look at the candidates currently in the "Magic 13" among senatorial candidates. Most of them belong to the ruling social class. Even those who claim relative poverty, like Juan Flavier, now firmly belong to the dominant establishment (although I like Flavier's down-to-earthness. He was the most proper senator-judge at the impeachment trial). Many of them are millionaires several times over, like Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Manny Villar, Sergio Osmeña and Ralph Recto.

People say politicians like Frank Drilon and Joker Arroyo are decent and independent-minded pols. That may be true but they also belong to the country's ruling class. And even the mildly plebeian among the senatorial candidates, like Obet Pagdanganan and Ernesto Herrera, regularly hobnob with the ruling luminaries as to be considered as already among them.

Those belonging to the opposition all smell of the bad odor of Joseph Estrada. I'm not sure of this, but did the stunning Noli de Castro come from the masses? Even if that is so, somehow the consensus on him in the upper and upper-middle classes is negative. Or is that—the lukewarm reaction to De Castro—to be expected, considering its provenance?

The party-list system was designed to bring the unrepresented to the table. But even when this sector succeeds in sending honorable men and women to the legislature, they often are too few and, therefore, easily coopted by the dominant parties or coalitions.

Very few genuine independents thrive. In national politics, you must either be blessed by the likes of Fidel Ramos, Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin, who best personify the Philippine establishment. The leaders of other churches, like the Iglesia ni Cristo, and religious factions, like the El Shaddai, also wield power because of their block-voting tendencies. And business cliques, like the Makati Business Club whose membership is a virtual Who's Who of the Philippine elite, carry clout.

This is nothing new, of course. Philippine politics has been the playground of the privileged. Our politics has been the private preserve of the rich and powerful. Philippine politics is controlled by an economic and political aristocracy that wants to maintain the status quo, meaning to keep away those who don't belong to it. Those who don't naturally belong to the dominant class but somehow get elected are sooner or later coopted by the ruling factions.

Incidentally, want to know who the lone senatorial candidate I voted for? It was Santanina Rasul whom I selected because she got a bum deal from the People Power Coalition despite assurances that she would make it to the official ticket. And I had a personal reason being a friend to a son-in-law and daughter of Ms Rasul's.

Incidentally, what is a "senatoriable"? Who coined the silly word "presidentiable"?

The kind of politics we practice will not extricate this nation from the mess it's in. Our kind of politics will never rescue the poor and underprivileged from their hellholes and give them more prosperous and meaningful lives. Our politics will never lift up the nation because our politicians see the nation's problems from an establishmentarian point of view. Because the less fortunate are not truly represented in the governance of the nation, their perspective on the problems is not seen by those who formulate and implement the government's programs.

Until the cost of running for office goes down drastically, very few from the ranks of the poor will rise to occupy enough positions to make a difference in the way many of us live. Very few from the ranks of the poor, like Gov. Lito Lapid of Pampanga, will be able to beat the odds against electoral victory. And now, in truly establishmentarian fashion, Lapid is being used by the Macapagal administration to appease the hungry and angry poor who comprised Edsa III and nearly broke into Malacañang in search of someone to blame for their miserable lives.

A few candidates did win without massive funding. In my hometown, Floridablanca, Pampanga, Vice Mayor Joe Rey Montemayor, a regular guy whose main asset is his amiable ways, beat a couple of millionaires and a lawyer (who is probably a millionaire also) to get himself elected mayor. My older brother Tito, a former municipal councilor, notes that Montemayor's campaign was strapped for funds but managed to cross the finish line ahead of the pack.

And on a personal note, my nephew Jeffrey Coronel, came out No. 3 among the winners for the municipal board of Bamban, Tarlac. The No. 1 and 2 winners were reelecting incumbents, so Jeff is No. 1 among the first-timers.

We observers talk endlessly about educating both our politicians and voters so we can put into office progressive, honest and selfless politicians. It doesn't help that the President herself has ignored the anti-dynasty sentiment gaining ground among the public. This and the other instances of dynasty-perpetuating developments across the nation don't bode well for the coming of a "new politics."

THEY SAID

Making life harder

"That makes life even harder for our teachers. They are made to account for the sins of others, as if they are well-compensated."

—Education Secretary Raul Roco, scrapping fines charged to teachers for lost textbooks

Life is beautiful

"She knows there is much ahead of her if only she could live long enough."

—Letty Jamandre said of her 3-year-old adoptive daughter who's suffering from multiple congenital defects

Totally un-Islamic

"Here is a group that does everything the Koran prohibits."

—Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu on the Abu Sayyaf

Misuari is not the MNLF

"Misuari is not the MNLF and MNLF is not Misuari."

—Moro National Liberation Front foreign affairs officer Dr. Parouk Hussin

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Save Manila's historical and cultural heritage

I GREW up in Manila. I was born at the Mary Johnston's Hospital in Tondo. I lived in Dimasalang, just behind the San Lazaro Hippodrome for the first five years of my life. My father worked for the American President Lines at the North Harbor where he would religiously bring me as a child every Saturday. My mother worked as a public school teacher at the Lakandula Elementary School in Tayuman. I have vivid memories of many old landmarks. The San Lazaro Hippodrome (soon to become another SM), the vast expanse of Manila Bay before its reclamation, the fishponds of Malabon before these were transformed into the Dagat-dagatan Relocation Site and many more, combine ecological, cultural and historical elements of the Manila landscape that gave color and meaning to my insatiably curious childhood. History, culture and nature are essential elements that strengthen one's sense of identity as a Filipino.

Urbanization and industrialization are given features of contemporary life as urban decay and moral, cultural alienation are. Manila is in a sad state of urban decay. Whatever natural, historical and cultural treasures and legacies that remain should be preserved through appropriate heritage and environmental legislation. Mayor Lito Atienza's plans to build more edifices like the proposed City College of Manila endanger the few remaining historical, cultural and ecological landmarks of Manila. New politics is value politics, sensitive to the deep ecological, historical and cultural values embodied by certain hallowed sites.

Last June 5, 2001, I joined many Filipinos who picnicked at the Arroceros Forest Park to express their love and concern for history, culture and the environment. With them I raise my voice and declare: "Save the Arroceros Forest Park, Mehan Garden, the Post Office, the Metropolitan Theatre and the many endangered sanctuaries in Manila and elsewhere...Stop the construction of the City College of Manila!"—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, Gomburza**

Benefits from MWSS privatization

WITH THE CURRENT discussions on the Napocor privatization, attention has been given to past privatizations like that of the Metropolitan and Waterworks Sewerage System. From the Manila Water Co.'s point of view, privatization has resulted in the following benefits:

- Water rates have been reduced by 74 percent. This has resulted in total consumer savings of P6 billion over the past three and a half years. We expect that any currency exchange rate adjustment will be lower than the pre-privatization adjustment.
- Manila Water has increased the volume of water supplied to our customers by 64 percent.
- This includes more than 200,000 people in the depressed communities that have been supplied with water. They are now paying about P4 per cubic meter as compared with more than P200 per cubic meter before they were serviced by Manila Water.
- The above were accomplished through more than P5 billion of infrastructure improvements, including new pipelines and the upgrading of pumping stations.
- These investments were provided by private capital and bank borrowings. This has saved the national government billions of pesos of potential equity infusion that would have aggravated the budget deficit.

While there are a lot of challenges that still lie ahead, these benefits prove that the privatization of the MWSS has generated significant benefits for the county. Manila Water is committed to continue with its service improvement programs that will further build on its past accomplishments.—**ANTONIO T. AQUINO, president, Manila Water Company Inc., MWSS Administration Bldg., 489 Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City**

Ebdalin back fighting for PAL

IT seems that the movers against the liberalization of our air services are out in full force again now that Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin has been resurrected to take on the fight.

The last time we heard from Ebdalin, he was defending tooth and nail Philippine Airlines' protectionist stance before the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)—with dismal results. The MAP forum concluded that aviation policy liberalization was the best for the economy because it promotes trade, tourism and investments to the benefit of all Filipinos.

In fact, the protection of PAL was so bad for the economy that then President Estrada turned against his biggest crony, Lucio Tan, and made aviation liberalization among his "sweeping reforms" in the hope of saving his sorry administration. That was when Ebdalin disappeared from the picture.

Now he claims that the country does not have enough infrastructure and facilities to meet the demand to be created by liberalization. This does not add up. Sure, we currently have 2.2 million tourists coming to the country yearly. But the Ninoy Aquino International Airport can handle 7 million passengers annually. Our shiny new Naia 2 has a 4 million annual passenger capacity. And Naia will have an estimated 13 million annual passenger capacity when it is completed two years from now. That's not counting the GenSan airport, the Cebu airport, Laoag, etc.

Vietnam does not have the infrastructure we have, but with liberalization it has equaled our tourist inflow. With tourists coming in, now they're beginning to earn the money to build additional hotels, etc. Imagine what more we can do if we fully liberalized our air services.

Perhaps Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona can look into the special interests his man Ebdalin has in aviation issues especially on its effects on Lucio Tan's investments.—**ISIDRO S. JAVIER, Summitville, Muntinlupa City**

Blatant dynamite fishing

LAST weekend I had the chance to go fishing along the coastline of Ternate, Cavite. To my shock, only half a kilometer away from the shore, groups of fisherman were using dynamite to catch fish. This went on the whole morning and, to make matters worse, you could hear from the distance so many more explosions that it sounded like a war exercise was under way. It was so bad you'd think that dynamite fishing is already legal in the Philippines.

What is happening? Is the government's effort to stop dynamite fishing a complete failure?

Are these fishermen so daring or stupid enough to use dynamite in plain view of everybody along the shore?

Do the authorities now tolerate this form of fishing?

I believe that there is no excuse whatsoever to justify this prohibited activity. Fish stocks are depleted and breeding grounds are destroyed by this method of fishing. It is about time that our government reevaluate its program and take positive steps to stop this senseless destruction of our environment.—**BERT SANTOS, Salitran, Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite**

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1600 Series of 2001.

Erap's plunder case to include Dichaves

THIS is in reaction to Michael Lopez's letter to the editor published on May 18, complaining about (1) the ambivalent government stand on the prosecution of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago for her participation in the May 1 rebellion and (2) the exclusion of Jaime Dichaves from deposed President Joseph Estrada's plunder case.

With reference to Dichaves, the private prosecutors filed with the Ombudsman last April 27, 2001 an urgent motion for the early resolution of the complaint-affidavit docketed as OMB Case CPL 01-0485 against Dichaves, among others. The motion calls the attention of the Ombudsman to the evidence against Dichaves already on record, including those noted in Lopez's letter. If the motion will be favorably acted upon, then Dichaves can be charged and tried, together with Estrada, in the main plunder indictment before the Sandiganbayan's third division. We wish to assure Lopez that the private prosecutors are not sleeping on the job. We are aware of our responsibility.

With respect to Lopez's complaint involving Santiago, the private prosecutors are not involved (and do not wish to be involved) in the rebellion cases, and are therefore not in a position to comment thereon.—**RICARDO G. NEPOMUCENO JR., coordinator-private prosecutors, 21 Mount Everest, Filinvest I, Batasan Hills, Quezon City**

Shelter from the storm

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LAST Tuesday morning, I went to Arroceros Forest Park in Manila. That's the place to the right of Quiapo Bridge if you're coming from Taft, at its very foot. I've passed it so many times before without thinking about it. I keep remembering it only as the general area we used to go to before martial law to protest tuition fee increases and other monumental—or so it seemed then—academic iniquities. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports was there. Indeed, over the years I've passed Arroceros only with a sense of oppression, finding it home to monstrous traffic snarls. I never realized it was home to something else. You went inside Arroceros Forest Park, and you entered a new world entirely. Especially so in light of its staggering contrast with the world outside.

The "forest" in the name may be an exaggeration, but Arroceros Forest Park does give you a sense of what a forest is, something the youth of today will find only in the wilder parts of the country, and something the youth of tomorrow will find only in pictures—unless we do something about it. A profusion of green bursts in upon you at the entrance. You walk then underneath a canopy of leaves hanging low from the branches of big trees, spraying shimmering shade into the ground. Vines droop everywhere, and give the place an aura of wild lushness. When the breezes blow, which is rare in this dead of summer in the heart of Manila, the boughs rattle and splay blotches of light and shadow into the faces of people.

Last Tuesday morning was an especially good time to be there. Artists had gathered to make a plea to government in general and newly elected Mayor Lito Atienza in particular. It was not to save Arroceros Forest Park, it was to save the neighboring Mehan Garden. That is the park sitting on the whole block beside the Metropolitan Theater—though that is not obvious to commuters and pedestrians, and indeed to car owners who know it only as the place where City Hall runs a racket fining people after towing their cars there. Today, it's Mehan Garden, tomorrow it's Manila's other parks. Including Arroceros Forest Park. The artists—and environmentalists—have good reason to fear.

And sing and paint and talk of their fears. That was the wonderful concept behind the gathering at Arroceros last Tuesday morning. Instead of protesting in strident terms Atienza's plan to convert Mehan Garden into a public school and other things, the artists wanted to show City Hall, Manila residents and the public at large what this country stood to lose by razing Mehan Garden to make way for presumed modernity. Loud protestations did not stop the Jai Alai building from being torn down a couple of years ago, City Hall arguing that it was merely an oddity and even an eyesore, quite apart from being a fire hazard. Nor did our own loud protestations in Arroceros before martial law stop Marcos from declaring martial law. Maybe a *harana* in early morning is the better tack. The strains of a *kundiman* have been known to melt hearts faster than God's trumpets the walls of Jericho. The voices of angels have been known to pound on deaf ears louder than the roar of cannons, or the thud of wrecking balls.

That was what happened on Tuesday morning at the Arroceros Forest Park. Elmo Makil, Gamaliel Viray and Emmanuel Gregorio, the country's version of the three tenors sang, as did Josephine Roces, Kasarinlan, the Andres Bonifacio Concert Chorus and the Madrigal Singers. The Bayanihan Dancers danced, Anding Roces and King Kasilag spoke, and the painters painted. It remains to be seen though what effect all that would have on the ear or eye or mind of the reelected mayor of Manila. He wasn't there, he was abroad, but his vice mayor, Danny Lacuña was. Lacuña, sympathetic and *simpatico*, vowed to bring the voices of the artists and environmentalists, not necessarily in song and speech form, to his boss: Lacuña himself had earlier proposed to build the Manila public school not in Mehan Garden but elsewhere. His heart at least, if not his pockets, lay with the artists.

It was while the three tenors sang amid the muted swirl of traffic outside, the idling of motors sounding like the hum of a forgotten air conditioner, that a phrase suddenly leaped to my mind. It came from one of Bob Dylan's songs, which seemed to fit in, despite the program's classical Filipino repertoire, given the coming together of seeming incongruities in that place. "Shelter from the storm" was the phrase, and it seemed to capture the scene that morning. That was what Mehan Garden and Arroceros Forest Park and the other parks in the country that were being threatened with extinction were: they were shelter from the storm. And that was what the country's singers, classical or not, dancers, painters, writers and other providers of beauty, who were just as well being threatened with extinction, were: they were shelter from the storm.

Art and earth, earth and art: they were the things that sprang out of the grime and slime and oppression of the city to give its bedraggled population a breather—that is literal if you've seen Metro Manila's skyline at break of dawn. They were the things that welled out of the swirl of commerce and pragmatism and callous calculation, like an oasis in a sea of sand, to bring this country to its senses. They were the things that emerged fuzzily from the blistering storm of false priorities, false progress, false gods, offering a chance at survival.

I wondered what madness had seized us that we found it so easy to destroy these havens, refuges, shelters. I wondered what warped sense of priorities we had that we should so blithely allow the storm to devour them too. Ironically, their destruction has always been defended as necessary for the country to survive, as necessary for the country to meet more compelling needs, as necessary for the country to go forward. But listening and watching the artists sing and paint and dance at Arroceros Forest Park, I wondered how a country could survive without vines drooping from its gnarled barks and a butterfly fluttering in the breeze. I wondered what a country needed more than to hear the sound of its dreams regurgitated from the pit of its lungs or soul. I wondered how a country could go forward without the collective memory of its past and the collective adumbration of its future sculpted in song and dance and words.

I wondered how a country could live without something to live for.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Miriam ought to live in Bedlam

THE LOWER life form to which I belong, bid Miriam Defensor-Santiago good riddance as she plans to depart for England because she finds the Philippines "suffocating."

Yes, we have not set foot on Harvard, Oxford or Cambridge and Santiago's "brilliance" is beyond our comprehension, but we heave a collective sigh of relief that we are finally getting rid of her. When the Philippines is finally devoid of lawyers shamelessly defending the evil, the corrupt and the bloodsuckers in exchange for a fee, it may yet evolve into a higher life form.

If the civil Brits do not find Santiago insufferable, we suggest that she settle permanently in the town of Bedlam, outside of London. Bedlam, which means madhouse or a place of uproar, was the site of a hospital for lunatics founded in 1247. There she can connect with the town's past inhabitants by raving against the lower life forms that rejected her during the last elections.—**ENRIQUE S. IMPERIAL, 3372 Tikling St., Rhoda Subd., Los Baños, Laguna**

The WORLD

US reopens talks with N. Korea

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush on Wednesday said he would relaunch US talks with isolated North Korea which he froze after spelling out a tough new line on Washington's Cold War foe soon after taking office.

"I have directed my national security team to undertake serious discussions with North Korea on a broad agenda," said Bush in a written statement issued after a four-month review of the policy of engaging Pyongyang pioneered by former president Bill Clinton.

The new US dialogue with North Korea will center on improved implementation of a 1994 deal which ended Pyongyang's nuclear program, "verifiable constraints" on its missile program, a ban on missile exports and "a less threatening conventional military posture," Bush said.

"Our approach will offer North Korea the opportunity to demonstrate the seriousness of its desire for improved relations," Bush said.

"If North Korea responds affirmatively and takes appropriate action, we will expand our efforts to help the North Korean people, ease sanctions and take other political steps."

Bush said US policy toward North Korea would continue to be coordinated with allies South Korea and Japan, and that he looked forward to working with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung who has pursued a "sunshine policy" of rapprochement with Pyongyang.

The new president set a firm course on North Korea policy when Kim visited him for a White House summit in March, saying he did not trust communist patriarch Kim Jong-il and doubted whether he could be counted upon to keep agreements.

Wednesday's announcement came on the eve of talks between US Secretary of State Colin Powell and South Korea's foreign minister Han Seung-soo.

Aides to former president Bill Clinton said they fell just short of reaching an accord with Pyongyang on halting its missile program before he left office in January.

Sketchy details of that deal suggest Washington would have helped North Korea find a way to launch satellites into space in return for an end to the missile program, viewed as a serious threat by South Korea, the United States and Japan.

But Bush aides complained that the breakneck pace of the Clinton engagement lacked sufficient verification procedures.

North Korea declared a moratorium on ballistic missile tests after shocking the world by test-firing a rocket over Japan in August 1998.

But recently it has warned that the missile moratorium and the 1994 deal which halted its nuclear program, known as the Agreed Framework, could be at risk if the US decided to permanently halt engagement.

Analysts say that the ultimate target of North Korea's gradual diplomatic opening over the last year has been the United States, and the eventual establishment of diplomatic relations with Washington.

But such is the nature of North Korea's tightly controlled society that US experts are divided on Kim Jong-il's intentions.

Some believe he is in favor of engagement to gradually reform his economy, and may perhaps develop a limited market system modelled on China, as a way to alleviate the serious drought and famine afflicting his people. *AFP*

'Mega' snubs Cabinet meet, deepens rift

MEGAWATI

JAKARTA—Days after the president reshuffled Indonesia's Cabinet to please his deputy, Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri skipped the revamped body's first meeting yesterday because she had other appointments.

In a sign that the rift between the two political rivals has widened, President Abdurrahman Wahid chaired the Cabinet meeting while Megawati attended the opening of an environmental exhibition.

She only smiled and waved when reporters asked why she had stayed away from the Cabinet gathering.

Earlier, her private secretary Bambang Kesowo denied that Megawati had intentionally snubbed Wahid, who has repeatedly failed to strike a compromise power-sharing deal with her as a way to end the nation's political crisis.

Wahid desperately needs Megawati's support to stave off plans by the national assembly to impeach him in August over allegations of corruption and incompetence. He denies any wrongdoing.

Some critics think Megawati's characteristic silence is a sign that lacks intellectual heft. But others believe it is a sign of shrewd political acumen.

Kusnanto Anggoro, an analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Megawati was becoming more assertive in her quest for the presidency and was increasingly antagonizing Wahid.

"Without doing anything, the position of the vice president is already strong and I don't think that President Wahid will be able to challenge Vice President Megawati," Anggoro said.

The once close relationship between the president and his deputy has turned frosty amid calls for Wahid to step down or be ousted. Many lawmakers want Megawati, the eldest daughter of Indonesia's founding leader, Sukarno, to become the new president.

"In the past, I think she was just following the wind of history but now she is becoming more determined to get a political objective," Anggoro said. "I think she is determined now to become the president of Indonesia." *AP*

CIA chief tries hand at propping up Mideast truce

JERUSALEM—Israel and the Palestinians were engaged in a bitter war of words Wednesday as CIA chief George Tenet arrived in Jordan on a regional tour aimed at bolstering a fragile ceasefire and ending eight months of bloodshed.

Tenet arrived Wednesday in Jordan, for talks with Jordanian officials and US special regional envoy William Burns, after meeting in Egypt with President Hosni Mubarak, the US state department said.

"The goal . . . is to start serious discussion at the security level about how to make sure the ceasefire continues," said department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

US President George W. Bush announced Tuesday he was optimistic enough to dispatch Tenet, who was last in the region in January, to try to revive security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians.

A senior Israeli official described Tenet's mission as "crucial" and said his separate meetings with Israeli and Palestinian security figures would guide a US decision on activating the Mitchell report for ending the bloodshed.

After his visit, Tenet "will be in a position to recommend to the American president whether the situation is right security-wise to activate the Mitchell process, which means to set the date when the clock begins to count," said the official, who requested anonymity.

The Mitchell report, released last month by an international committee headed by former US senator George Mitchell, called for a halt to violence, followed by a series of confidence-building measures, including a freeze on Jewish settlement construction and a Palestinian crackdown on anti-Israeli attacks, with the aim of reviving peace talks.

But on a day of continued high tension, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon denounced Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat as a murderer and a liar.

"One must understand we speak about a murderer. He is a murderer, a pathological liar," Sharon said in an interview with Russian television. *AFP*

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Macedonia considers state of war stance

SKOPJE, Macedonia—Outraged by the slaying of five soldiers, a Macedonian leader pledged to ask parliament to declare a state of war against ethnic Albanian rebels, despite international appeals to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski intends to urge the parliament to "officially introduce a state of war and mobilization . . . because it is not possible to respond otherwise to the threats against Macedonia's security and sovereignty," said his spokesperson, Antonio Milososki.

The comments by Georgievski's spokesperson on Wednesday came hours after five soldiers died and seven were wounded in rebel attacks—the most serious escalation of violence in weeks. The new spate of fighting late Tuesday underlined the government's tenuous hold on areas near the border with the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

Amid escalating tensions, Macedonian Slav rioters smashed about 100 ethnic Albanian and Muslim-owned shops in the southern city of Bitola despite a dusk to dawn curfew Wednesday, state television reported. Ten homes—including one owned by the deputy health minister—were set on fire. Three of the slain men came from the city.

Even President Boris Trajkovski came under attack. Gunmen fired two shots at the Macedonian president's office Wednesday evening, hitting the bulletproof windows but failing to penetrate the glass. No one was injured.

Fighting began in northern Macedonia in February when ethnic Albanian militants took up arms to demand broader rights for their sizable community. The authorities, however, regard them as separatists attempting to carve out an ethnic Albanian mini-state.

Several government offensives have failed to dislodge the militants. A state of war would give the government sweeping powers to fight rebels and give Trajkovski the ability to rule by decree. Macedonia could impose a draft, seal its borders and ban demonstrations. *AP*

Fighting erupts anew in Rwanda

KIGALI—Rwandan Hutu rebels have suffered major losses in the bloodiest outbreak of fighting the country has seen for years, losing 150 men in a clash with government troops, according to the Army.

The Rwandan Army said it had killed at least 150 Hutu extremist rebels Wednesday as they tried to enter Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo through the northwest region of Gisenyi.

The fierce fighting raised the specter of renewed violence and terror in Rwanda, scene of mass slaughter, mainly by Hutus, in 1994 which left hundreds of thousands dead.

"One hundred and fifty infiltrators were killed, including a superior officer who was second-in-command of an Interahamwe brigade, and 24 others were taken prisoner," Army spokesperson Col. Jean-Bosco Kazura said.

Some 2,000 Rwandan Hutu rebels—former Rwandan Hutu soldiers and allied Interahamwe militia—have massed in DRC on the Rwandan border in recent days with the aim of pushing their rebellion back into Rwanda, according to Kuzra.

The rebels—who are former Rwandan Hutu soldiers and allied Interahamwe militia—have moved into the lush Virungu wildlife reserve, straddling the border between the DRC and Rwanda. *AFP*

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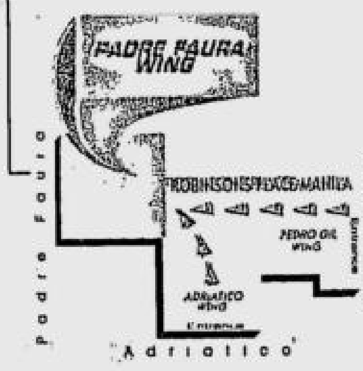

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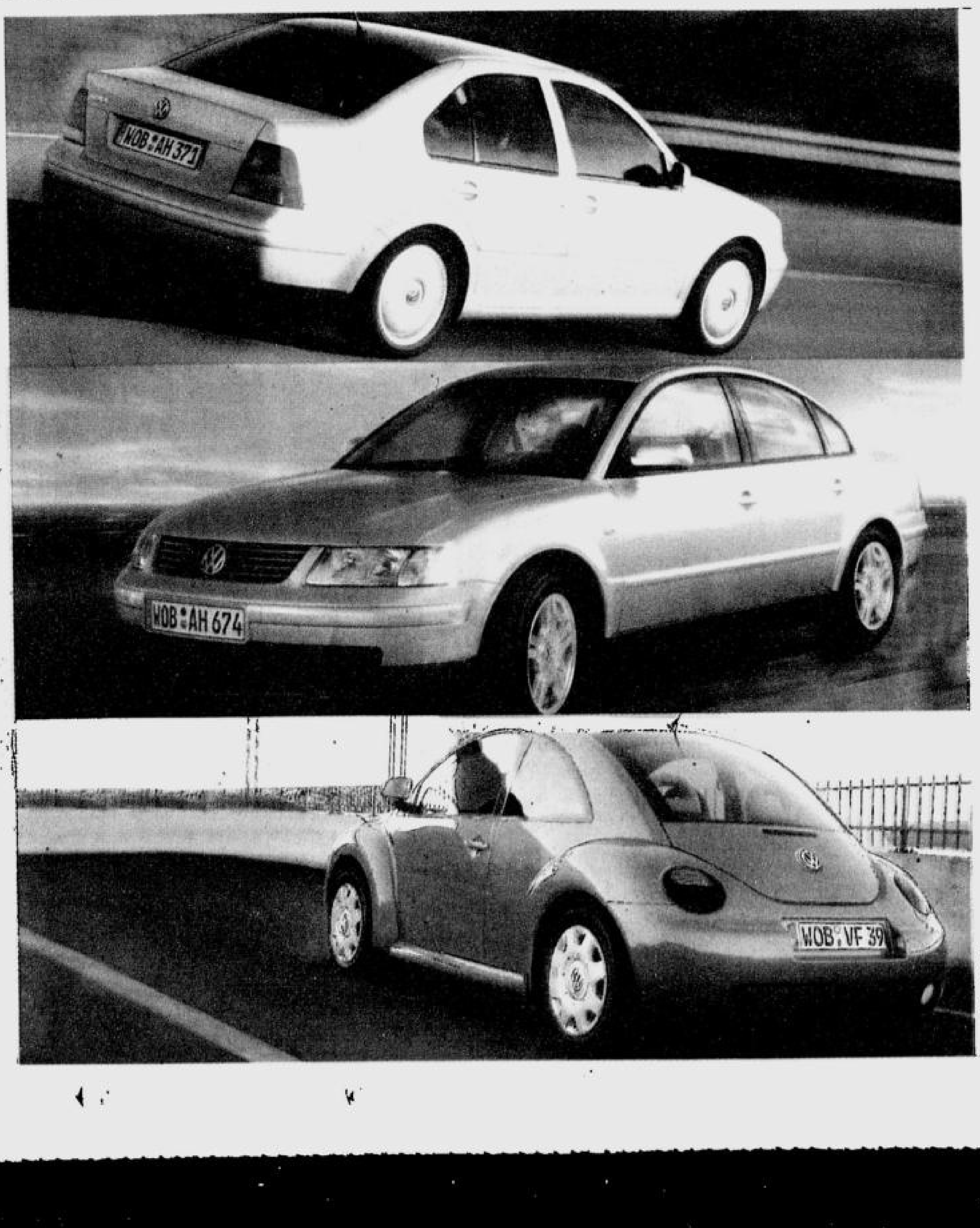

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White House panel confirms global warming

WASHINGTON—A star-studded scientific panel convened by the White House earlier this year to study climate change delivered a stern warning, saying global warming was real and that greenhouse gas emissions were part of the problem.

The report, issued Wednesday, could pose a diplomatic problem for President George W. Bush, who heads to Europe next week in hopes of fend off criticism over his decision to abandon an international treaty regulating greenhouse gases.

Bush caused a global outcry in March when he decided to walk away from the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which he considered unfair to the United States since it did not commit big developing countries such as China and India to any carbon dioxide reduction.

The protocol requires 38 rich industrialized countries to cut "greenhouse gases"—mainly the carbon by-product of burning oil, gas and coal—by 2010 by an average of 5.2 percent compared to 1990 levels.

Bush also suggested that scientific knowledge about global warming was incomplete.

But University of California Chancellor Ralph Cicerone, who chaired the 11-member panel that included seven members of the National Academy of Sciences and a Nobel laureate, said modern science knows enough to single out greenhouse gases as a problem.

"We know that greenhouse gases are accumulating in Earth's atmosphere, causing surface temperatures to rise," said Cicerone.

"We don't know precisely how much of this rise to date is from human activities, but based on physical principles and highly sophisticated computer models, we expect the warming to continue because of greenhouse gas emissions," he added.

In their report, the scientists pointed out that temperatures at the Earth's surface rose by about 0.6 degrees Celsius during the 20th century.

This warming process has intensified in the past 20 years, accompanied by retreating glaciers, thinning Arctic ice, rising sea levels, lengthening of the growing season in many areas, and earlier arrival of migratory birds, they said.

Assuming that greenhouse gas emissions will accelerate, the panel was able to produce computer models suggesting that average global surface temperatures will rise between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Celsius by the end of the 21st century.

While pointedly shying away from policy recommendations, the panel, however, issued a warning. *AFP*

Nepal slays probe finally begins

KATMANDU—An investigation into the shocking massacre of almost the entire Nepalese royal family was finally ready for business yesterday after delays that fuelled public fury over murky official accounts.

The official committee of inquiry was given a royal mandate to interview all witnesses and inspect the palace rooms where the shootings of King Birendra and nine other royals took place on Friday evening.

The third curfew in as many days was lifted at 3 a.m., allowing Katmandu residents to shop for groceries and discuss the latest reports, including a graphic eyewitness account of the slayings.

The curfew had been imposed as a precautionary measure following violent protests that broke out on Monday in the wake of the killings, and the crowning of his brother Gyanendra as king.

None of the national newspapers made any reference to an interview with the unidentified relative of an eyewitness to the palace massacre, published Wednesday in the Washington Post and London Times newspapers.

The interview said Birendra's oldest son, former crown prince Dipendra, had carried out the killings with an Uzi submachine gun and an M-16 assault rifle, before shooting himself.

Although some Katmandu residents were aware of the reports, there was still resistance to accepting what for many is a horrific scenario.

"To kill his own father, mother, sister and brother? No, I could never believe that," said college student Pramod Joshi.

The definitive version of the gruesome turn of events during a family dinner is supposed to be provided by the special commission of inquiry set up King Gyanendra.

The committee, which has been reduced from three members to two because of opposition leader Madhav Kumar Nepal's refusal to take his seat, received the royal mandate late Wednesday, clearing it to start Friday.

The committee, comprising the chief justice and parliamentary speaker Tara Nath Ranabhatt, has been asked to report by Monday, after which the king has pledged to make the findings public.

Ranabhatt revealed that King Gyanendra was talked out of issuing an early public account of the massacre during a meeting with six top officials, including the prime minister and chief justice.

The king wanted "to open all the facts" in a royal proclamation after his crowning Monday, the speaker said.

"But after a long discussion, we unanimously advised the king to form a high-level committee of inquiry," he said.

"We felt it would be better to create a mechanism for rooting out the facts so as to avoid any possible confrontation between the king and people."

Public anger at the virtual information blackout on the massacre was one of the triggers for the recent riots, which left at least three dead and dozens injured in police firing.

One official version of the events, describing the massacre as an accident caused by an exploding machine gun, was met with derision by the public.

The domestic media was reminded of the restrictions it faces when the editor of a leading Nepali daily and its two publishers were arrested Wednesday for sedition—a charge that carries a possible three-year prison term. *AFP*

The prince and his beloved: Doomed love

By Neelesh Misra

DEVYANI RANA

KATMANDU—Soft-spoken and beautiful, the sweetheart of the late Crown Prince Dipendra is herself a member of a royal lineage and the daughter of a former Nepalese foreign minister.

Dipendra's frustration with his parents' opposition to his plans to marry Devyani Rana apparently drove him to massacre them and seven other royals, then fatally shoot himself. He died in a hospital Monday, and his uncle, Gyanendra, took the throne.

"They were in love. It was talked about in family circles," said Suraj Shumshere Rana, brother of the assassinated queen.

Other royal watchers likened the pair to Romeo and Juliet, and a member of the State Council that names Nepal's kings and overseas royal affairs said the prince was "smitten."

Devyani Rana, who is in her early 20s, was reportedly so overcome with grief after the slayings that she left for New Delhi, where she lay sedated for days. The council member said she has since flown to London, where she is staying in the home of her sister, Urvashi.

King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya objected to the marriage because the girl belonged to what they considered a lower clan. Devyani Rana's mother belonged to the once-powerful Scindia dynasty in India's central state of Madhya Pradesh.

As Nepal continued to mourn Friday's massacre of its royal family, tales swirled in Katmandu's narrow streets about the passionate romance between the doomed couple.

Devyani Rana and 29-year-old Dipendra—Army colonel-in-chief and paraglider—reportedly appeared at public functions together and went to parties and discos.

They often met in an isolated house in Lalitpur, a town adjoining the Nepalese capital of Katmandu, according to a State Council member and friend of Devyani Rana, who like the other council member spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said she tried to help the two get married, even attempting to get a fake declaration from a Hindu astrologer saying the kingdom would fall into bad times if the crown prince did not marry his sweetheart.

The astrologer refused.

Devyani Rana is the daughter of Pashupati Shumshere Rana, a former government minister and leader of an opposition party in Nepal. He has never lost an election in his Sidhupal Chowk constituency, close to Nepal's border with China.

Those close to the family say Devyani Rana was her father's secretary, adviser and anchor.

One Rana clan member said she helped put together her father's schedule, conferred with party workers and made other contributions to his political career.

Devyani Rana was educated in India, studying in some of the country's top colleges. *AP*

No stay of McVeigh execution

DENVER—A judge denied Timothy McVeigh a further stay of execution Wednesday, saying nothing in newly disclosed FBI documents could change the fact that he was the "instrument of death and destruction" in the Oklahoma City bombing.

McVeigh's lawyers said they would file an appeal Thursday. The 33-year-old Gulf War veteran is set to die by injection Monday at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana.

After a hearing that lasted a little more than an hour, US District Judge Richard Matsch said he was shocked that the government waited until six days before McVeigh's original execution date to begin turning over more than 4,400 pages of documents in the case.

But he brushed aside McVeigh's bid to force a hearing over the mistake and said the findings of the jury that convicted McVeigh in 1997 still stand.

The jurors "executed their moral judgment as a conscience of the community," said Matsch, who presided at the trial.

"Whatever role others may have played, it's clear that Timothy McVeigh committed murder and mayhem as charged," he said. "Whatever may in time be disclosed about possible involvement of others in this bombing, it will not change the fact that Timothy McVeigh was the instrument of death and destruction."

McVeigh's attorneys had argued that the execution should be delayed because the FBI documents released last month could have helped McVeigh's defense, perhaps by pointing to the involvement of others in the crime.

Matsch said if the FBI had the duty to disclose to what it knew to prosecutors, McVeigh had the same duty to tell his lawyers if others were involved in the bombing.

Attorney General John Ashcroft was pleased with Matsch's decision, "We've never had a doubt about the guilt of Timothy McVeigh," he said. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Good Samaritans give girl gift of hope

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Through the help of INQUIRER readers here and abroad, Antonia Precious Marie Jamandre, the 3-year-old girl with multiple congenital defects, leaves today for Manila for a series of tests and a surgery to save her life.

Cebu Pacific Airlines has shouldered the airfare of Antonia, her adoptive mother Letty and companion Reynalda Española.

After a battery of tests to begin on Saturday and barring other hitches, Antonia is set for surgery on June 14 at the Philippine Heart Center (PHC). The cardiologist heading the medical team is Dr. Miguel Jaro.

One of Antonia's serious congenital defects is Patent Ductus Arteriosus or PDA—a blood vessel in the heart that did not close after she was born.

Antonia urgently needs the closed heart surgery, which costs P80,000 to P100,000, to avoid complications that could cost her life.

Letty, 57, said that with medicines, post-operative care and other expenses, the whole procedure may entail P150,000 or more—beyond the reach of her income as a public school teacher at the Iloilo National High School (INHS) here.

Many INQUIRER readers responded to Antonia's call for help by donating money to the "Save Antonia" account opened at Equitable Bank-Manila on Tuesday by widow Mila Abad under her and Letty's names.

Abad, a native of Bacolod City, and Manila Times lifestyle editor Chit Lijauco were some of the first people to come to Antonia's rescue when an article on the girl was published on June 2 in the INQUIRER's Visayas section.

Readers who want to help Antonia can deposit their donations at Equitable Bank Account No. 0363-01520-4 under the names "Mila Abad/Letty Jamandre" or text Mila Abad at 09178493160.

Abad and Lijauco coordinated for the free fare with Cebu Pacific and arranged the girl's accommodation and free heart surgery at the PHC.

Those who donated to the "Save Antonia" account since Tuesday were: Mila Abad, P5,000; Frank Khouri, P1,000; anonymous, P4,000 and several others whose names the bank was not able to release as of late yesterday afternoon.

Natalie Yap, 6, who herself had a heart surgery, had her name listed by her businessman father who personally gave Letty P2,500 on Wednesday as *pabaon* for Antonia's trip to Manila.

A family from Manila called Abad to say that since they did not have money to donate, they would instead lend their 14-inch color TV to keep Antonia occupied before and after her surgery.

Abad also received text messages via the Internet from INQUIRER readers based in Daly City, California; Saudi Arabia and Qatar—all inquiring how they could help and informing Abad that they in turn were sending e-mail messages to their friends about Antonia's plight.

Letty's fellow INHS teachers yesterday gave her food and a big bottle of multi-vitamins "so she can have the energy to hug Antonia."

A teary-eyed Letty profusely thanked Abad and other INQUIRER readers for their help.

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John Hay air quality fails DENR tests

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—If you think you are breathing fresh air in the forested area of Camp John Hay, you have another thing coming.

Environmental Management Bureau officials expressed shock when their latest record showed that the air quality of Camp John Hay failed twice as much as the allowable limit of the microgram per normal cubic meter of the total suspended particulates (TSP).

The monitoring of the air quality index in April showed that it reached 486 TSP, surpassing the air quality index of the city proper which was registered at 268 micrograms per normal cubic meter of TSP.

The air quality index's allowable limit is 230 micrograms per normal cubic meter of TSP.

"We were so shocked. For the first time, the air quality of John Hay failed, the gap was too far from its air quality in March which only reached 30 micrograms per normal cubic meter TSP," said Rey Trinidad of the regional EMB.

"(We never) expected that the area would be so polluted. The air quality was even worse than the city proper, which is frequented by motorists."

Trinidad said they were upset to find out that John Hay's air became the most polluted in Baguio this summer.

The Department of Transportation and Communications has a hard time penalizing smoke belchers since April, especially during Holy Week, when motorists from the lowlands flocked to this city for a vacation.

"Although we have implemented the Clean Air Act, we are still waiting for the smoke emission testing machine that would come from the Land Transportation Office in Manila. Although we observed several smoke belchers during summer, we could not just arrest a smoke belcher without basis so we have to have that machine," Arnel Navarro, staff member of the Management Service of DOTC, said.

Trinidad attributed the air pollution in John Hay to smoke-belching vehicles. " We cannot even blame the tree-cutting and the construction in the area. So far, there are still trees that can mitigate the air pollution," he said.

EMB officials have placed a machine that measures the air quality index at John Hay's commissary building where vehicles pass.

They said they would place more machines in other areas in John Hay to see if these were also badly affected by air pollutants.

Jussan Maduma, information officer of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), said a number of motorists and visitors stayed in John Hay during summer.

"Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing how many vehicles entered John Hay because we are not monitoring anymore unlike before when we were operating as a resort," she said.

Gillian Yabut-Cortes, vice president for corporate communications and marketing of the CJHDevco, said the latest record of the EMB does not represent the air quality of the camp.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 33° Lo 24°	Baguio HI 26° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 33° Lo 22°	Laoag HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone HI 34° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 29° Lo 21°	Legazpi HI 32° Lo 25°	Calapan HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 32° Lo 25°	Roxas HI 32° Lo 25°	Cebu HI 31° Lo 25°	Tacloban HI 30° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos HI 33° Lo 24°	Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro HI 33° Lo 23°	Davao HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/08/01

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Wrong winner declared; execs correct selves

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Election officials in Tanjay City are seeking to correct an error in the canvass of votes in which a losing candidate for the city's 10th council seat was proclaimed winner.

Rogelio Benjamin, provincial election supervisor, said the Tanjay board of canvassers filed a petition to set aside the proclamation of Felix Barot and instead proclaim Rolando Tabaloc as councilor.

The petition was filed with the Commission on Elections in Manila late last month after the National Movement of Free Elections in Tanjay informed the board that it proclaimed the wrong candidate.

The Namfrel, after checking its own data, found that Tabaloc should have been declared winner on May 17 instead of Barot.

The board was composed of election supervisor Erlinda Nochefranca and members Julio Zamora and Chito Real.

The board had listed Tabaloc in the statement of votes with 7,078 votes and Barot, 7,070 votes. But in the certificate of canvass, Barot was listed with 8,262 votes.

Benjamin said the board erroneously counted an entry twice so instead of about 500 votes, they credited over 1,000 votes to Barot.

He, however, said the error affected only Tabaloc.

Benjamin thanked the Namfrel for pointing out the error.

He told a forum Wednesday afternoon that the Namfrel should be called the "friendly opposition," instead of the Comelec's citizens arm, because "we check each other's data."

Alert up after Bacolod blast

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Security was ordered tightened in the Department of Education Culture and Sports office and in 61 public schools here after an employee got a call that another bomb would explode at the DECS within the week.

The bomb threat sent jitters to DECS officials as it was received a day after a bomb exploded in front of radio station Radyo Agong-dyHB of the Radio Mindanao Network that left two passers-by wounded.

Reyna Mijares, a secretary at the DECS office on Rosario Street here, answered a call about 10:30 a.m. yesterday from a woman who warned her that a bomb would explode at the DECS within the week.

Milagros Gonzales, Bacolod schools superintendent, immediately ordered tight security inside the DECS here and asked for increased police visibility in the city's public schools.

Although the bomb threat could be the work of pranksters, she said precautionary measures must be taken because opportunists might take advantage of the situation.

"Prevention is better than nothing," she said.

Gonzales also asked Mayor Luzviminda Valdez to help them provide additional security guards to the city's public schools.

Only 25 public schools here have security guards who only work for eight hours for five days a week, she said.

"The schools that have security guards cannot afford two shifts," she added. "We only provide educational services but when it comes to security I cannot assure the parents."

Gonzales also directed the school principals to ask barangay officials to provide volunteers who could help secure the schools.

She and some school officials met with Denny Montoya, Bacolod police bomb expert who led a team that inspected the DECS area, to seek advice on additional security measures.

Montoya told them that the threat against the DECS could be a diversionary tactic for another target.

He also advised them to be always on the lookout for suspicious-looking packages or bags that were left in their areas.

Four bomb explosions had occurred in Bacolod this year—at the Bacolod police station in February, at the Bacolod Bays Center on May 21, in front of the house of a businessman on June 1 and in front of Radyo Agong on June 6.

The bomb used in the Radyo Agong explosion was a composition B military explosive, which raised suspicions that the suspects could have had military or police training because such explosives were not readily available to civilians.

Supt. Amado Marquez, Bacolod police chief, said the four bombings could be the work of policemen who wanted to humiliate him. A source also said the bombings were staged to ensure Marquez's relief as Bacolod police chief.

"We have complete information but need to back it up with concrete evidence," he said. "It would be premature for us to divulge who the suspects are, as it could imperil our investigation."

There were talks that former members of the Bacolod police, who are still in active service, may be behind the bombings to get back at Marquez for his efforts to stop drug trafficking in Bacolod and smuggling allegedly involving policemen.

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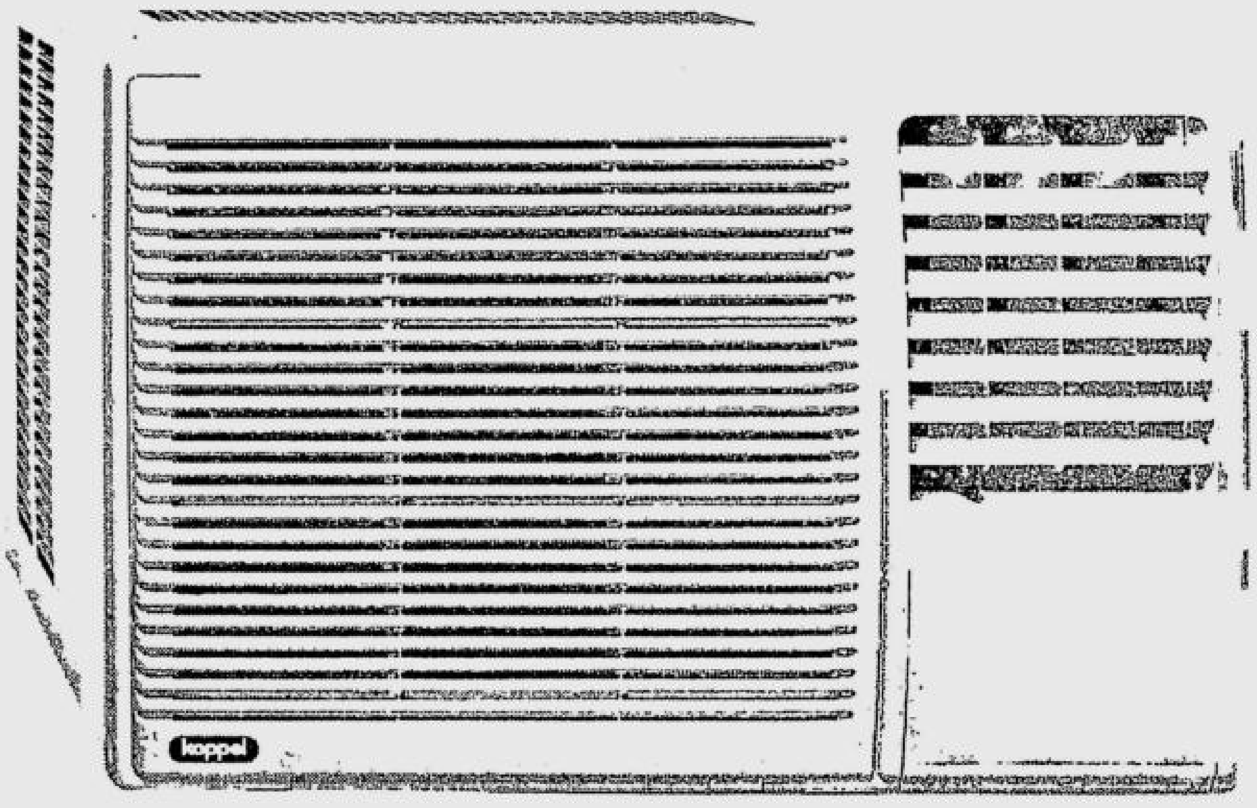

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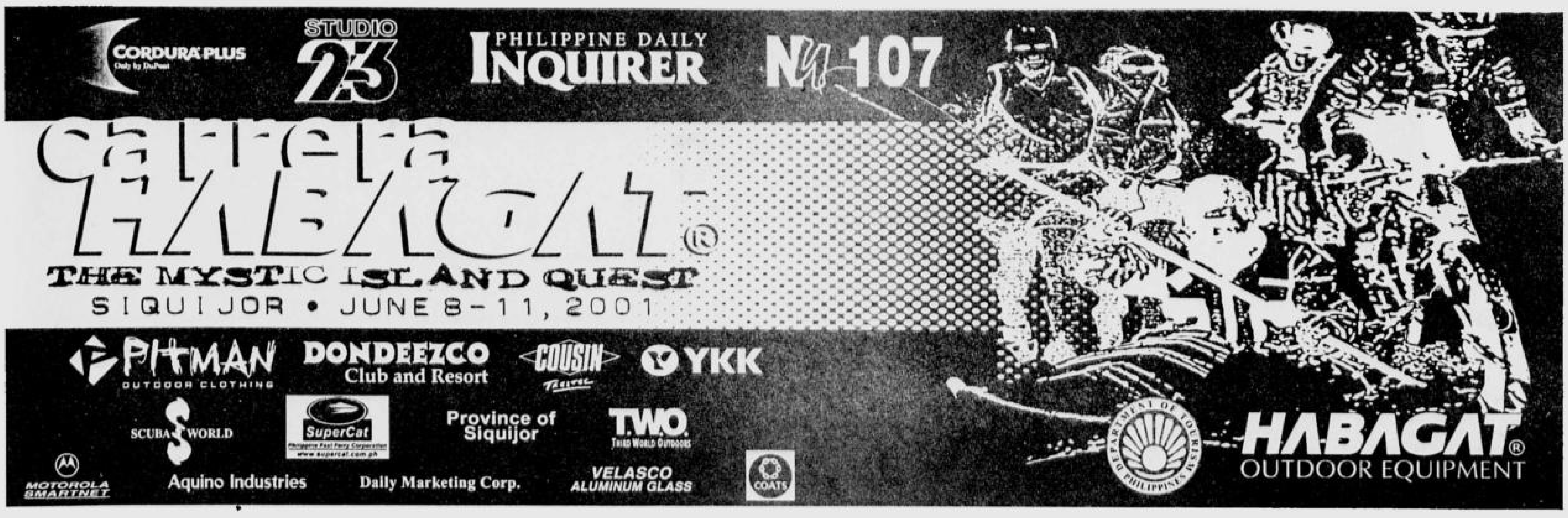


Guns-for-hire sow terror in Ilocos Norte town

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

CURRIMAO, Ilocos Norte—Like the Abu Sayyaf, they make a living terrorizing and killing people.

Up to 100 guns-for-hire have turned this sleepy coastal municipality (pop. 11,000) into a "ghost town," prompting town officials to ask help from Malacañang.

The terrorists are mostly former policemen and military draftees from Narvacan, Ilocos Sur and Abra where guns-for-hire are "readily available," according to the local police. A provincial prosecutor called them a "cottage industry" in some parts of the two provinces.

"Their presence and activities have prompted us to request for additional military and police personnel. Terror continues to reign here," Rosario Go, Currimao's new mayor, told the INQUIRER. She is the widow of former Mayor Ernesto Go.

"We can't even leave the house because of the threats and intimidations. It's like being under house arrest," the 67-year-old Go said. "We prefer the continued presence of the military."

Taiwanese

The hired guns also pose a threat to Taiwanese tourists billeted at a beach resort here, said a Laoag City tour group.

Far Eastern, a Taiwanese airline firm, brings in tourists from Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan. It flies to the Laoag international airport, 27 kilometers from here, at least three times a week.

The 13-man Philippine National Police station in this town, reinforced by a small contingent from the military and PNP, is in "full red alert."

Currimao, a fifth-class town, was declared a "hot spot" and placed under the control of the Commission on Elections during last month's elections.

Go, whose family is in the construction business, feldspar mining and aluminum manufacturing, said they were living in fear for their lives.

Her son, the late Vice Mayor Wilbur Go, was killed on Nov. 26, 1999 by armed men here. Edgar Quinto, president of the Association of Barangay Captains here and Wilbur Go's friend, was shot dead on April 6 in front of his house in Barangay Lioes.

Probe

Both the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation are investigating the killings.

Go's camp has alleged that the private armies belong to losing mayoral and vice mayoral candidates Cirilo Quilala and Clemente Lazo Jr.

Both Quilala and Lazo, who belong to the administration Lakas-NUCD, have denied the allegation in separate interviews with this paper. Go was Currimao mayor from 1968 to 1986.

Go and her running mate, Dr. Errol Ramajo, are affiliated with the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, political party of Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

Quilala, a former film producer, has asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections here. He claimed there was massive vote-buying while flying voters proliferated.

Quilala thrice ran unsuccessfully against Wilbur Go and once against Ernesto Go, who were Currimao mayor from 1988 to 1998 and 1998, respectively. The older Go died shortly before the May elections due to a lingering illness.

Currimao is famous for, among other tourist spots, its beach, coral and rock formations, and watchtowers which protected the coastal town against marauding sea pirates during the Spanish time. It is approximately 465 kilometers northwest of Manila.

Few cops

Before at least 25 policemen were detailed here, according to Rosario Go. "I don't know why they were reduced to only 13, considering the tense political situation."

"If possible, we'd like the Army (contingent) to stay here longer. We proposed that a military detachment be put up here," she said, adding "how can you attract investors if the threats and intimidation continue."

Parish priest Florante Rigonan said the situation remained tense. But he said assigning additional PNP and Armed Forces personnel was not necessary.

Ilocos Norte police director, Supt. Romeo Espiritu, said the same thing. "We have already doubled the number of PNP personnel there. That's more than enough," he said.

On May 15, the Currimao police arrested one of the suspected terrorists, Agustin Cabrales, one of Quilala's employees.

Cabrales, 27, is from Barangay Bantay Abat, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, where guns-for-hire are said to be a "cottage industry." He is detained at the PNP jail in Batac.

In a report to the NBI, Currimao police chief, Insp. Chito Sancho Esmenda, said on May 15 Cabrales "took a Coleman water jug filled with gasoline from the warehouse of (Quilala) along the national highway, together with several companions. The group proceeded to the municipal hall, poured gasoline at the hallway but their evil (act) was timely prevented."

Terror

Cabrales' group was also suspected of firing their guns at the Comelec office on the same day.

Provincial prosecutor Melecio Felipe has asked Quilala to shed light on Cabrales' attempt to set the Comelec office on fire. But Quilala questioned the court summon, saying he was not a respondent in the arson case.

A municipal employee disclosed that he saw at least 20 armed men, all civilians, near Quilala's warehouse on May 14 day. The PNP Maritime Command reported that armed men were seen near the D Coral beach resort that belongs to Quilala.

When interviewed, Lazo laughed off claims that he employed goons. "They're probably referring to my relatives, my nephews. We don't have guns here. It's the Go camp who hired goons, not us."

Outgoing Mayor Josefina Lazo, wife of Clemente Lazo Jr., assailed the Go camp for describing Currimao as a ghost town. "This is the handiwork of irresponsible politicians in the town who do not care for the welfare of the people but are determined to gain control of the town no matter what it costs," she said.

Image

The Go camp, the mayor said, is "destroying the image of Currimao as a peaceful resort and leisure town."

The town "was very parochial and clannish since almost all the people (here) are relatives by blood or affinity. Politics was previously a mere give-and-take activity."

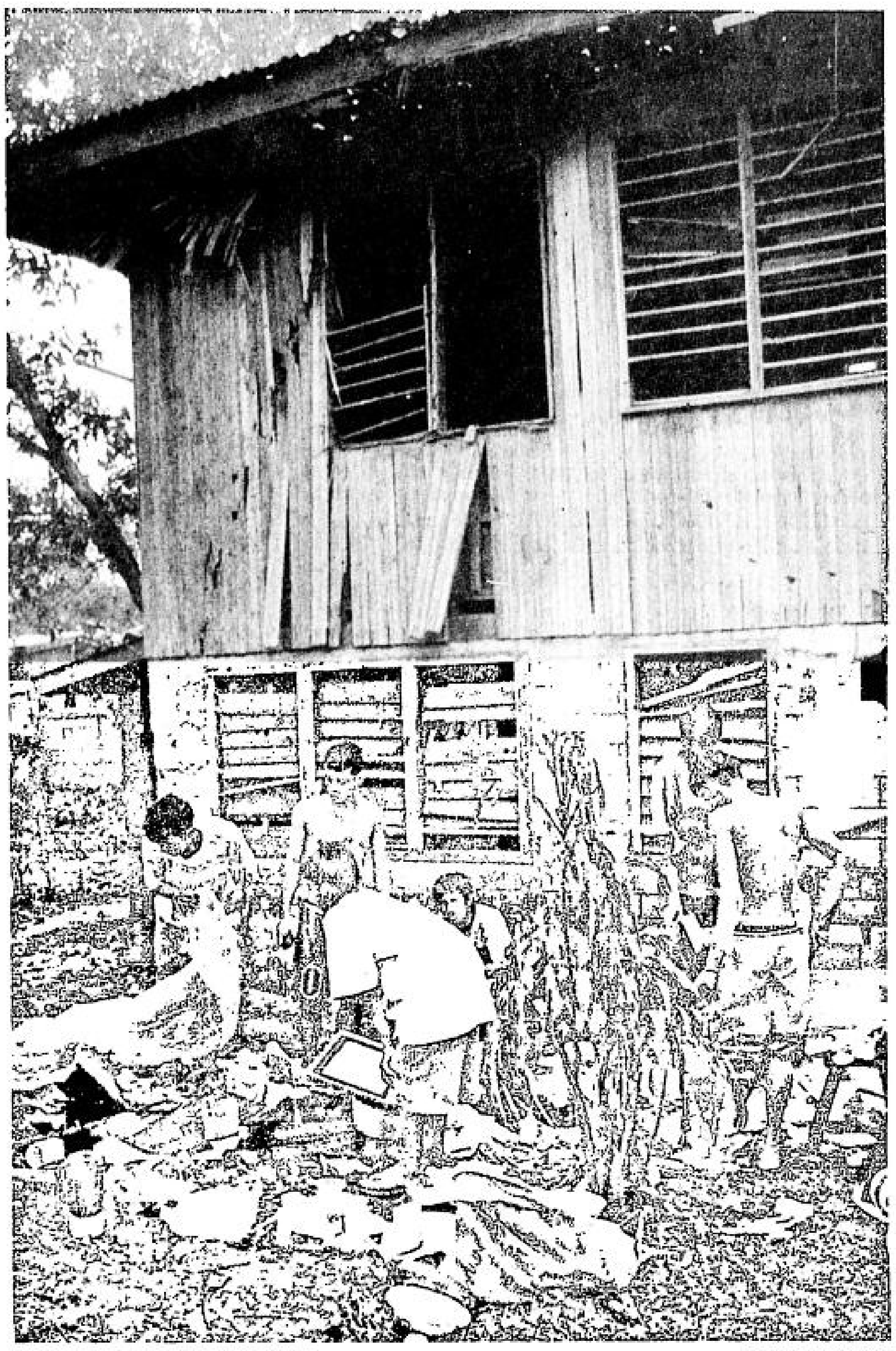
"However, bad politics contaminated the town when the Gos, who are Chinese with business concerns in this town, joined politics in 1988. The politics of guns, goons and gold then became a rule," she alleged.

In a statement, Quilala said he would "stick to legal means in my quest for electoral justice."

Quilala asked the Comelec to speed up the hearing of his petition against the Go camp whom he also accused of peddling lies.

"I am determined to ferret out the truth and send to jail those who disturbed peace and order here and the good name of Currimao," he said.

But the Go camp insisted Quilala's group was responsible for the alleged "reign of terror in this town."



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Search for indigenous power sources starts

BAGUIO CITY—Militant groups in the Cordillera are exploring alternative financing schemes that may allow local governments to exploit indigenous power resources.

The move, the groups said, is a bid to out-race private investors seeking cheaper energy sources under a newly deregulated power industry.

Manny Loste, regional coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna, said the Cordillera People's Alliance fears a "gold rush of sorts" in the Cordillera for indigenous power resources by competing power industry investors as soon as President Macapagal-Arroyo signs the Omnibus Power Industry Reform bill into law.

Rufino Bomasang, president of the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) Exploration Corp., credits the region for its potential as a geothermal and hydroelectric power base by the year 2008, in a paper he read for an April 4 energy forum here.

The measure provides the blueprint for the auction of the state-owned National Power Corp. and devolves the whole power industry into generation, transmission, distribution and supply electrification districts.

In a press statement, the CPA characterized the passage of the Omnibus Power Industry Reform measure on June 4 as a subversion of the government's earlier promise "to light up our dark, crisis-ridden economy, to bring power to the people."

"The bill was written under the framework of corporate globalization with its various programs of liberalization, deregulation and privatization, which have condemned millions of Filipinos deeper into the quagmire of poverty and exploitation," said Joan Carling, CPA secretary general, in a statement.

Worse for indigenous Filipinos, the bill virtually allows incoming foreign and domestic investors the license to tap the hydroelectric and geothermal potentials of the Cordillera, she added.

Bomasang's paper notes that the region already has the capacity to generate 15 percent of the country's geothermal production or 1,918 megawatts (MW) of gas-propelled electricity since 1999. He said it could harness up to 2,464 MW in the next seven years.

The Cordillera already generates 950 MW of power from its hydroelectric facilities, or 30 percent of the output utilized by the national power grid.

"Like before, indigenous Filipinos will have to shoulder the cost of 'development' and will be the very last to be beneficiaries, if at all. Through the use of deceptive laws or by brute force, the land and resources of indigenous people will be taken away from them by energy companies with the assistance of (the) government," the CPA statement said.

The group claimed that the Napocor already lined up projects for the Matuno Dam in Ifugao, Palsiguan Dam in Abra, a dam along the Amburayan River in Benguet and micro-hydro projects between Kalinga and Apayao.

Napocor runs two of the oldest state-owned hydropower facilities in Benguet and is supervising the development of the country's largest power and irrigation dam, the San Roque multi-purpose dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan.

But a Napocor union source here noted that local governments have the same options as the energy investors.

"It is important for local governments to consider alternatives because the only reason why they are burdened by high power costs is because rural electric cooperatives are still obliged to pass on Napocor's debts to their customers," the source said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

₱1M for a tricycle cheap for lotto winner

BY JANI ARNAIZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—Good fortune finally came to this 52-year-old tricycle driver.

Ramon Bala (not his real name) can now relax and enjoy life after winning a P20-million jackpot in lotto on May 5.

He bought his winning combination, 4-15-24-27-33-36, from a lotto outlet owned by the family of actress Lucy Torres Gomez on Aviles Street.

Lucy and husband, actor Richard Gomez, met Ramon at the airport when he went to Manila a few days after the May 14 elections to collect his prize money from the main office of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Ramon has been driving his tricycle almost half his life to support his nine children—five from his first wife who died in the 1990s and four from his second wife.

To make sure that the future would be bright for his children, Ramon deposited half of his winnings in a local bank. He also bought life insurance for his wife, his nine children and himself.

He also bought his tricycle for P1 million. A relative said this was to fulfill a promise Ramon made to the tricycle operator that he would buy the tricycle for P1 million if he won the lotto.

Ramon also planned to buy back his ancestral home in Ormoc City that his family was forced to sell several years ago because of poverty.

Ilocos lighthouse put up for 'adoption'

LAOAG CITY—The historic 109-year-old Cape Bojeador lighthouse in Burgos, Ilocos Norte has been included in the "Adopt a Lighthouse" program of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Transportation and Communication Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said they created the program to solicit support from private groups and individuals since the department lacks funds to maintain the country's lighthouses.

"*Sayang na sayang. Kailangang-kailangan talagang ma*-renovate *at saka ma*-restore *sa* original condition *niya* (It's such a waste. It really needs to be renovated and restored to its original condition)," said Alvarez of the Cape Bojeador lighthouse.

"It is one of the most beautiful lighthouses in the Philippines," said Rear Admiral Reuben Lista, commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Alvarez and Lista arrived at the Laoag International Airport (LIA) here on Wednesday with Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos. They inspected the LIA and the Currimao Port in nearby Currimao town during their visit here.

Under the "Adopt a Lighthouse" program, a non-government organization will handle the maintenance of the country's old lighthouses.

"They can come up with a bed and breakfast restaurant-hotel in that area and probably could help tourism because it is near Pagudpud," Lista said.

The Spaniards built the Cape Bojeador lighthouse in 1892.

The brick lighthouse, which lies 45 kilometers north of this city and faces the South China Sea, is still being used by navigators and is among the major tourist attractions in Ilocos Norte.

"We all know that we cannot maintain our lighthouses, especially those built during the Spanish period. These are legacies of the past and we would like to preserve these for our children's children," Lista said. *Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor wounded in ambush

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A town mayor in Lanao del Norte was wounded Tuesday after he was ambushed by unidentified men in Lala town.

Col. Samuel Bagasin, chief of the Iligan-based 402nd Infantry Brigade, said a police bodyguard of Salvador town Mayor Johnny Tawan-tawan was killed in the attack.

Two other security escorts of the mayor were wounded in the ambush.

Bagasin said Tawan-tawan and his men were on their way home from Maranding town when about a dozen men fired at his pickup truck in Barangay San Miguel in Lala town.

He said the gunmen waited for Tawan-tawan's pickup to cross a bridge before firing.

Killed was SPO3 Hernando de la Cruz of the Salvador police station.

Wounded were Army Sgt. Ramon Dacoscos and Pfc. Caafur Tomanto.

Bagasin said they are still investigating the motive for the attack. *Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LOW DEMAND

Market for OFWs shrinking

DAVAO CITY—The market for Filipino overseas workers in Asia is shrinking, prompting recruiters to look for jobs for OFWs elsewhere.

Helen Togle, Mindanao Association of Registered Recruitment Agencies Inc. (MARRAI) secretary, said Taiwan had closed about 80 percent of its market for overseas workers while Hong Kong, by 50 percent.

"Singapore has still a market for overseas workers but the problem is they offer very low salaries," she said.

Togle added that sending domestic helpers to Hong Kong is not very profitable since counterpart agencies located there also collect $700 to $800 in commissions per domestic helper.

"That translates to P35,000 to P37,000 aside from the processing fee and the ticket that a local recruiter has to pay," she said.

Some domestic helpers in Hong Kong had been deported after a few months' stay there for petty reasons, with them ending up asking for refunds from the recruitment agencies that sent them there.

Togle said Hong Kong's demand for Filipino workers dropped also because employers now prefer Indonesians as domestic helpers.

But Togle said there are still many applicants for jobs in Hong Kong because of high salary rates there that could run up to HK$3,670 or an equivalent of P15,000 to P28,000.

She admitted that although the demand for Filipino workers in other Asian markets is high, Filipino workers stay away from these areas because of low salaries.

Citing the case of recruits for domestic helpers in Abu Dhabi, she said employers there would cut the workers' salaries to $150 from the prescribed $200 to $300.

Demand for OFWs in other countries like Singapore, Togle said, is still high but salary rates are low.

But Togle said Europe has a very good market potential for overseas workers because countries there are constantly seeking nurses, nannies, and housekeepers.

The Netherlands, she said, is requesting 5,000 nurses, while Switzerland had asked for about 7,000 nurses. The United States and London, meanwhile, are already closing their respective markets for nurses.

"Poland and some of the countries in Africa can also be potential markets because (the) Philippines is still their No. 1 target when recruiting nurses," she said. *Joel B. Escovilla and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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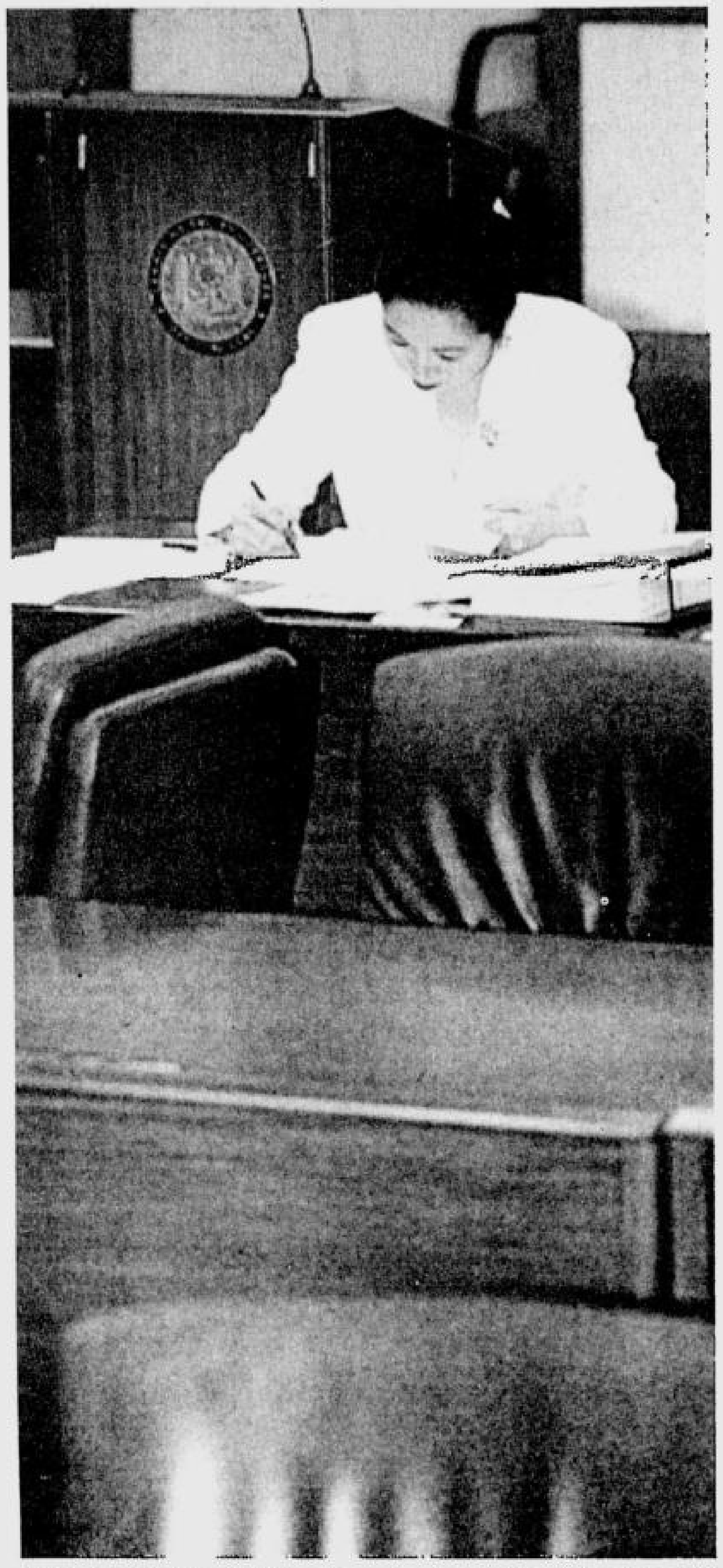
Neophytes back Joker; JDV faces stiff fight



IT'S curtains for Sen. Nikki Coseteng who attended the closing of the 11th Congress. Coseteng, a third-termer, attempted to regain her old congressional seat in Quezon City in the May 14 elections but lost. Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago did not attend. ERIK ARAZAS

(From page A1)

more competent, than those eyeing the top Senate post," Recto said in a press briefing.

He disclosed that the shy Arroyo, who did not attend the proclamation of the winners of the senatorial elections, had already agreed to the plan.

Senators Renato Cayetano and Franklin Drilon have already signified their intention to wrestle the top Senate post from Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Senator-elect Edgardo Angara is also reportedly interested in the Senate presidency.

Cayetano and Drilon, who was reelected to the chamber, have reportedly been approaching colleagues to enlist their support.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Arroyo but he was unavailable for comment. But in an earlier interview, Arroyo had said that he was not interested in the post.

Arroyo admitted that Cayetano had approached him to solicit his support. He said he fended off Cayetano's overtures by saying in jest "I'm also interested in it (the Senate presidency)."

"After saying that, they stopped calling me," Arroyo said as he let out a guffaw.

Recto said Arroyo had both the administrative skills and the political savvy to become the next Senate President.

Arroyo was the executive secretary of former President Corazon Aquino and a three-term congressman of Makati.

In the 11th Congress, Arroyo tried to make a go for the House speakership, but he lost to Villar.

Although Villar is a good material for the Senate presidency, he is giving way to Arroyo this time, according to Recto.

A senior member of the upper chamber traditionally holds the Senate President. But Recto said "there is no rule prohibiting a neophyte senator" from being elected to the post.

"You cannot laugh off his talent, his competence and his capability," he said, referring to Arroyo.

Recto said four of them had formed a "bloc" to push for Arroyo's presidency in the Senate. Recto said they were optimistic of getting the support of both administration and opposition senators.

Asked whether Arroyo might face rough sailing in the political contest in which quid-pro-quo deals were common, Recto said Arroyo had already proven that he could be a "team-player."

Recto said it would be easy for Malacañang to push for its legislative agenda with Arroyo at the helm of the Senate.

Recto said they might even get the support of opposition senators in spite of the reported plan of Angara of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) to vie for the Senate's top post.

Recto said there appeared to be a split in the opposition, with former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda of the Nationalist People's Coalition going around offering the votes of Senators-elect Loi Estrada, Noli de Castro, Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson to anybody except Angara.

There is bad blood between Maceda and Angara, each of whom served as Senate President. Each was instrumental in his rival's ouster as Senate President.

LDP to vote as one

Opposition senators belonging to the LDP have agreed to "vote as one" in the Senate presidency race, according to Sen. Vicente Sotto.

Sotto revealed the LDP plan after LDP senators, including, Angara and Panfilo Lacson, met Wednesday night.

He said the emerging candidates so far were Pimentel and Angara.

Sotto expressed confidence that LDP senators, combined with other independent senators, could form a majority in the new Senate and capture the Senate presidency.

A senator must get at least 13 votes to capture the top Senate post.

"We're looking at 15. But our number could still go up," Sotto said.

He said the LDP had also agreed that the race for the Senate presidency was neither a proxy fight between supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo nor a contest between LDP and Lakas-NUCD.

Sotto said it was a matter involving individual personalities.

In the House, seven parties came up with a "declaration of unity" aimed at fielding a "common candidate" for the speakership race.

Signing the declaration were Rep. Florencio Abad, Liberal Party president; Rep. Carlos Padilla, head of the LDP House contingent; Rep. Vicente Sandoval of the Lakas-NUCD II "Progressive Bloc"; Rep. Raul Del Mar of Promdi; Rep. James Gordon of the Nacionalista Party; and Jose Ma. Gerochi of Reporma.

The space above the name of Evaristo Macatulad, chair of Aksyon Demokratiko, remained unsigned in the copies of the declaration that circulated in the House yesterday.

The declaration pledged to "galvanize congressional support" for Ms Macapagal and "promote a new brand of politics."

The second phrase was apparently an indirect stab at De Venecia, who is perceived as a "trapo" or traditional politician. *With a report from Volt Contreras*

Only Nene has perfect attendance in Senate

PIMENTEL

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was the only senator who registered a perfect attendance during the 11th Congress while Sen. Robert Barbers had the most number of absences.

Radio station dzBB reported that Barbers had 25 absences but this was because he had to go to the United States to undergo surgery for a tumor in his throat. Because of this, only nine of his absences were recorded.

The 11th Congress had a total of 54 session days.

Senators Teofisto Guingona and Franklin Drilon had near perfect attendance.

The only time the Senate had a perfect attendance was on Aug. 7.

Other senators who had more absences than the rest were Senators Anna Dominique Coseteng with nine absences and Loren Legarda and John Osmeña with five each.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III was late for the sessions 21 times. Sen. Blas Ople was late 12 times and Coseteng nine times.

Nikki cried; Miriam, JPE were absent

(From page A1)

the upper chamber.

"Critics may find fault with the individual performance of certain senators," Pimentel said, as he moved to close the session.

"But on the whole, I think that the Senate as an institution has survived the worst phase of its work in the recently aborted impeachment trial of (then President Joseph Estrada)," he added.

In her farewell address, an emotional Coseteng admitted that the impeachment trial "will always be a milestone in my stay in this chamber."

Coseteng, Tatad, Enrile and Santiago were among the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the infamous second envelope containing key evidence against Estrada during the trial, an act that precipitated People Power II.

"Let me reiterate, Mr. President, even now, with the benefit of hindsight, the vote I took during the impeachment trial of President Estrada would have remained the same—I would still have voted no, knowing full well what the consequences were," Coseteng said.

"It is a principled stand that I will proudly carry to the end." Her voice choked with emotion, the outgoing senator burst into tears after thanking her mother, Alice Marquez-Coseteng, former Philippine ambassador to Mexico, whom she revealed was gravely ill with cancer.

"She never let on that she was gravely ill for fear that I would not run in the last elections, perhaps thinking that I would have immediately flown to be at her side, never mind the elections," she said. "Of course I would have done just that."

Coseteng ran and lost in her bid for a congressional seat representing the third district of Quezon City.

Productive

A "productive legislative year" was how Pimentel described the 11th Congress, which he said had enacted 391 laws, approved three joint resolutions, 26 concurrent resolutions, 91 resolutions and 400 House bills.

Among the laws churned out by this Congress are the Clean Air Act, the Fair Election Practices Act and the Power Reform bill, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signs into law today

Reporting on the achievements of the Senate over the past year, Pimentel said the legislators investigated Estrada for corruption charges that led to his impeachment trial and his ouster by People Power II in January.

While the impeachment trial proved to be a "heady experience" for some senators and a "ghastly" one for others, "we look forward to better times where we may be able to discharge our duties . . (with) our dignity unsullied and our integrity intact," Pimentel said.

Accusations

Coseteng also took the occasion to accuse her opponent, Maite Defensor, sister of Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, of engaging in alleged massive-vote buying.

She claimed that her opponent also came up with "manufactured presidential proclamations guaranteeing land and homes to the urban poor" during the campaign.

For his part, Tatad was silent on the matter of the impeachment trial during his address, but in an interview with reporters, he acknowledged that it was one of the most important events during his term.

In his speech, Tatad, a former journalist, raised concern about the growing power of the media, as he stressed that the country faces the risk of the media running the government following the last elections.

He said the past two senatorial elections saw two broadcast journalists from ABS-CBN garnering "more votes than the strongest party-based candidate."

Broadcaster Noli de Castro led this year's senatorial pack. "(This suggests) that in a real sense, the media organization has become the strongest political party in our midst," Tatad said.

Book projects

With his retirement from public office, Tatad is returning to what he loves most: writing. He told reporters that he is writing a book and planning two other book projects, including a novel.

What Tatad seemed most excited about, though, was the prospect of becoming a first-time grandfather next month.

Tatad also said he plans to stay active in politics by "engaging in efforts to make real constitutional reforms," particularly in the matter of the structure of government.

Firebrands Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile, who both lost their reelection bids in the May 14 polls, did not show up yesterday.

Missing

Sen. Vicente Sotto said he believes the two senators were "disgusted" by the way the elections were conducted.

But Pimentel said: "Nobody forced them to show up. It's OK."

He said Santiago was out of the country. He noted that even though Enrile was in town and missed the session, he attended the four-day special session of Congress last week and the first two days of this week's regular session so he could vote during the Senate ratification of the power bill.

Also at yesterday's session were Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Serge Osmeña, John Osmeña, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Juan Flavier.

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3	P 4,000.00 to P 4,499.99	4,000.00	100.00	50.00	50.00	
4	P 4,500.00 to P 4,999.99	4,500.00	112.50	56.25	56.25	
5	P 5,000.00 to P 5,499.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50	
6	P 5,500.00 to P 5,999.99	5,500.00	137.50	68.75	68.75	
7	P 6,000.00 to P 6,499.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	
8	P 6,500.00 to P 6,999.99	6,500.00	162.50	81.25	81.25	
9	P 7,000.00 to P 7,499.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50	
10	P 7,500.00 to P 7,999.99	7,500.00	187.50	93.75	93.75	
11	P 8,000.00 to P 8,499.99	8,000.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	Effective January 1, 2002
12	P 8,500.00 to P 8,999.99	8,500.00	212.50	106.25	106.25	
13	P 9,000.00 to P 9,499.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50	
14	P 9,500.00 to P 9,999.99	9,500.00	237.50	118.75	118.75	
15	P10,000.00 and up	10,000.00	250.00	125.00	125.00	

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Sin now selling old newspapers

(From page A1)

wants to promote a healthy environment through proper waste management and has given his blessings to the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "New Paper" recycling drive.

In a message to parishes and communities in the Archdiocese, Sin asked Catholics to bring their old newspapers to their respective parishes so these could be sold to the INQUIRER for recycling purposes.

The proceeds of the sale would then be given to various charities under the supervision of the Archdiocese.

"I encourage our parishes and communities in the Archdiocese of Manila to support this worthy endeavor," he said.

Old newspapers and tabloids will be purchased by the INQUIRER as part of its commitment to address the environmental and economic challenges facing the country and the local newspaper industry.

The three-month recycling campaign will run until September.

The INQUIRER will pay P3 per kilo of the old newspapers. It is willing to pick them up provided the pile reaches 200 kilos.

The public can bring their old newspapers and tabloids to the FEP Printing Press loading dock at 3817 Mascardo St. behind the INQUIRER building on Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Newspapers will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and from 8:30.a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Those who want to schedule a pick up may call 8978808 local 209 or 8994426.

According to the Philippine Environmental Quality Report, the country's rainforests have been steadily shrinking over the last century.

Paper production, which consumes about 10 to 17 trees for every ton of paper produced, is a principal contributing factor to deforestation.

CARDINAL SIN: An imprimatur for recycling paper.

Through paper recycling, local paper manufacturers will be able to offset the use of virgin wood pulp.

In the area of newsprint, about 19,834 tons are used every year for the production of newspapers. However, only 5 percent of the newsprint is recycled, prompting local paper manufacturers to import 95 percent of the raw material needed for the production of local newsprint every year.

More than saving trees and reducing costs, however, the "New Paper" drive aims to reduce the amount of waste going to disposal sites. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Smoker wins $3-B suit vs Philip Morris

(From page A1)

award might not stand.

Richard Boeken, 56, was awarded $3 billion in punitive damages and $5.5 million in general damages.

"We thought that figure would hurt them, make them stand up and take notice," juror Denise Key said of the punitive damages. "We want them to be responsible, to put on their product that the product will kill so when you smoke you smoke at your own risk."

It was the largest jury award won by an individual against a cigarette maker. The largest judgment against the tobacco industry in a class-action lawsuit was $145 billion awarded last year to thousands of sick Florida smokers. Philip Morris was one of five tobacco companies in that case.

Boeken, who suffers from incurable lung cancer, smiled and gave a thumbs-up sign as the 18-page verdict was read. He declined to speak to reporters after the hearing. Philip Morris attorney Maurice Leiter said he will appeal.

"We recognize Philip Morris is an unpopular company. It makes a dangerous product, but clearly, the evidence does not support this verdict," Leiter said.

He said the company believes Boeken ignored "a mountain of information" about the health risks of smoking and chose to continue his habit.

Boeken's attorney, Michael Piuze, said he did not know how the jury set the award amount.

"I don't know where it came from, but we're pleased," Piuze said.

The award may not pass a new test adopted by the US Supreme Court, some attorneys warned.

"The punitive damage award has to bear some relationship to compensatory damage," said attorney Michael Hausfeld, who sued tobacco companies in May, claiming they violated federal racketeering laws to hook children on cigarettes.

"Clearly here the punitive award is an expression of total outrage and I'm not sure under the Supreme Court test for a single individual that kind of a differential would be upheld," Hausfeld said.

Boeken had sought more than $12 million in compensatory damages such as medical bills and lost earnings, and between $100 million and $10 billion in punitive damages.

He was diagnosed in 1999 with lung cancer, which has spread to his lymph nodes, back and brain. He took up cigarettes in 1957 at age 13 and was smoking at least two packs of Marlboros every day for more than 40 years. Piuze said his client had kicked heroin and alcohol, but renewed his smoking habit after trying to quit several times.

Piuze argued that his client was a victim of a decades-long tobacco industry campaign to promote smoking as "cool" while the company concealed the serious dangers of smoking.

During closing arguments, Piuze said Philip Morris is "the world's biggest drug dealer, something that puts the Colombian drug cartels to shame."

REUTERS

AN undated photo of Richard Boeken with his son Dylan Boeken released after the jury gave its verdict. Boeken suffers from incurable lung cancer.

Attorneys for Philip Morris didn't deny that smoking caused Boeken's illness but argued that he ignored health warnings about the dangers of cigarettes and chose to smoke despite the risk.

The jury began deliberations on May 22. Jurors during the seven-week trial were presented with evidence that included company memos and videotaped depositions from Boeken and clips of tobacco company executives' 1994 congressional testimony.

Juror Ann Anderson said her intent was not to punish the company.

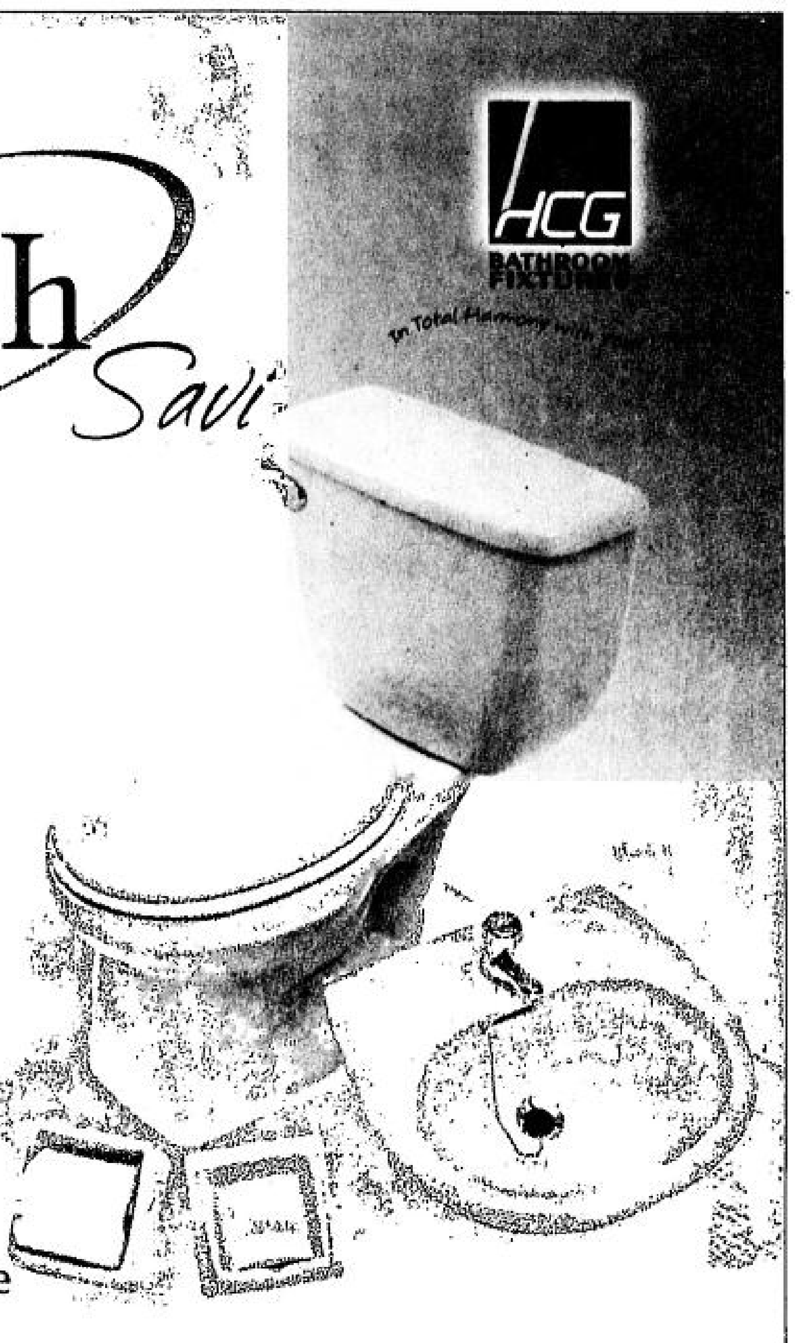
"I think in the jury room a lot of people thought we wanted to punish Philip Morris," she said. "It wasn't to punish them. It was to make them stand up and take notice."

The verdict was the latest in a series of tobacco industry courtroom losses. Earlier this week, a New York City jury found tobacco companies liable for deceptive business practices, ordering them to pay up to $17.8 million to treat ailing New York smokers.

There have been six earlier cases in which plaintiffs won individual awards since the mid-1990s, said Richard Daynard, a law professor and chairman of the Tobacco Products Liability Project at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston.

But only one of those plaintiffs has actually received any money, a 70-year-old ex-smoker who got $1.1 million from Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. after a 1995 jury award. The company is appealing the verdict to the Supreme Court, but was ordered to make the payment.

Shares of Philip Morris finished regular trading Wednesday at $50, down 83 cents. In after-hours trading, shares fell $1.75 to $48.25. *AP*



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Sabaya threatens to behead US captive

(From page A1)

through Ambassador M. H. Arshad, said it was ready to extend help in negotiating for the release of the hostages, but only if the Philippine government asked for it.

But in Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters that Castillo was the government's officially designated intermediary with the Abu Sayyaf.

"We cannot authorize any other negotiator or intermediary to talk to the Abu Sayyaf, especially foreign citizens," Tiglao said.

He also appealed to the Abu Sayyaf not to kill its hostages, saying this would go "against the tenets of Islam and Christianity."

Castillo himself spoke over RMN and said it would be difficult to meet the bandits' immediate demand for negotiations.

"The fact is, the time is too short. The time frame should at least be realistic," he said in Filipino.

He also aired a wry comment to Sabaya's threat, saying: "*Maganda yan. Hindi naman makakapatunay ng katapangan yan* (That's good. That doesn't prove bravery)."

Castillo again called on Sabaya to communicate with him. He said that his phone lines were open the whole day, and that Sabaya was again deviating from an earlier understanding.

But in his afternoon call to RMN, Sabaya said talking with the emissary was proving to be futile.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding three Americans—missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Guillermo Sobrero. They were among the 20 hostages abducted by the bandits from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27.

The bodies of two of the 17 Filipinos taken from the resort, one of them beheaded, were found early this week. In a statement, the US Embassy in Manila said "beheading or threatening to behead an innocent hostage is a cowardly act."

It called for the safe, immediate and unconditional release of all the hostages, and said "all members of the brutal Abu Sayyaf Group must be brought to justice."

"We regret the loss of innocent lives in the current situation," said Michael Anderson, US Embassy public affairs chief.

Sampinit

At his afternoon briefing, Adan said the Abu Sayyaf had split into two groups.

One, led by Commanders Lana Djalun and Kalaw Jajalis, was supposedly making its way toward the central part of Basilan, particularly the Sampinit Complex.

Adan expressed the military's belief that this was a diversionary movement as the main group led by Sabaya remained in the vicinity of Tuburan with the hostages.

In a phone interview earlier with the INQUIRER in Zamboanga, Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin said his people had told him that the bandits and their hostages had reached the Sampinit Complex.

PRESIDENT Macapagal hands over to Mrs. Edna Bajet, widow of retired Army Col. Fernando Bajet, a check for P1 million as reward for killing an Abu Sayyaf commander. The reward was earlier placed at P5 million but this was reduced to P1 million because the bandit killed was only a minor leader.
JOAN BONDOC

"There are creeks, ravines and leeches there," he said of the 40,000-hectare, thickly forested area. "It would be difficult for the military to cordon it off."

Salapuddin also said "we should not take (Sabaya's) threat lightly."

"*Makiusap tayo* (Let us make a request). (The Americans) are innocent hostages," he said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling refused to give details on the whereabouts of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The soldiers are all over Basilan, and there is a continuous operation," Camiling said in a news conference.

He said that even if the Abu Sayyaf headed to its stronghold on Mt. Mahadji in Sumisip, which is about 15 kilometers from the Sampinit Complex, the military had established troops and blockades there.

Camiling also welcomed the participation in the operations of fresh troops from the PNP Special Action Force, all equipped with sniper rifles and other combat equipment.

Adan said intelligence units had monitored a supposed plan for a joint force of the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to land in Sumisip.

Minutes earlier, Adan said such a landing had in fact been made, with 30 Abu Sayyaf and MILF fighters on board two pump boats from Lamitan.

Told that Sumisip is halfway across the island from Lamitan, he modified his statement by saying it was merely a plan that had been monitored.

Adan also reported that:

- A certain Abu Sayyaf commander identified only as Bayan was killed in a clash with government forces in Tuburan two days ago.
- Troops were interrogating two civilians apprehended recently on Mt. Sinangkapan in Tuburan.

FBI

Earlier in the day, Adan said a crisis negotiating team from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation was indeed assisting government negotiators in Zamboanga City.

"They have expertise in anti-terrorism and could be of help, but we will call the shots. This is our operation," he said, adding:

"This is not interference in our internal affairs. The FBI presence is standard procedure of the US government once their citizens are kidnapped anywhere in the world."

The US Embassy's Anderson also said the FBI presence was "not unusual."

"There's a hostage situation. They just had to send some experts from the FBI to work closely with the Philippine authorities," he said.

In Malacañang, Tiglao said the Malaysian Sairin Karno had talked with a wire agency offering his help.

Asked if Castillo was in touch with the Malaysian, Tiglao said the government intermediary was in touch only with the military brass and top police officials.

"These are the only people he is authorized to consult with," Tiglao said.

Asked about the negotiations, Tiglao apologized and said he could not disclose details.

"I have to emphasize to everybody that the lives of the hostages are at stake here," he said, adding:

"I'm afraid we cannot be less than serious about this, and I would call on the media to even relay the appeal (to) everyone, including Muslim leaders, that these are innocent civilians and their lives should not be taken.

"(Executing them) is against all tenets of Islam, against all tenets of humanity."

2 brigades

The AFP is throwing in no less than two Army brigades to hunt down an estimated 400 Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

To oversee the military's pursuit and rescue operations, a one-star general has assumed overall command in the war-torn province.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, is calling the shots at the capital town of Isabela, with two of his four brigades committed to the field.

The first, the 103rd Brigade, has a new commander in Col. Hermogenes Esperon, who replaced Col. Juvenal Narcise.

It was Narcise who served as ground commander when the military failed to capture the bandits holed up at the St Peter's Church and the Dr. Jose Maria Torres Hospital in Lamitan on June 2.

To provide additional firepower, the AFP has pulled out the 102nd Brigade, led by Col. Pedro Rabuanga, from Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, and deployed it to Basilan.

A brigade is composed of three battalions. Each battalion consists of 300-500 soldiers.

Apart from the two Army brigades, there are the elite Scout Rangers, the AFP's Counter-Terrorist Force which has the strength of an undersized battalion, one armor company, police, and armed civilian volunteers.

There is also a continuing naval blockade around the island-province.

Adan said Basilan had been divided into two sectors, with the eastern side assigned to the 102nd Brigade.

"This change is necessary as we bring in more troops," he said.

Since the fighting started in Basilan on June 1, the casualty toll of the military has reached 15 killed and 45 wounded.

The military has no figures on the Abu Sayyaf losses in battle, except for one "minor leader" killed. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Rocky Nazareno***

AFP tells critics Abus have 'home court advantage'

(From page A1)

mountains, hills, rivers and streams. So even if you put the entire (AFP) there, as former President (Fidel) Ramos said, it will fit into the island of Basilan."

Golez said the war in Basilan was "not a joke."

"The (AFP) is fighting (bandits) who are not just foreign-trained but had fought actual battles. This is called 'master of the terrain' in the military because they live there, their relatives and friends are there. So they have the home court advantage," he said.

Valor

Golez said the soldiers came from Marawi and other places, "but they are fighting valiantly and heroically."

"This is a lopsided battle because the bandits are using human shields, and the soldiers cannot just fire without thinking of the hostages," he said.

He pointed out that the bandits' use of the hostages and civilians as cover and the beheading of some of them "show the kind of savagery being committed by the Abu Sayyaf."

Golez said the issues being raised—the bandits' escape from the Lamitan hospital and the letup in operations against them after the Sipadan hostage crisis—were "unfair" because "our soldiers are dying out there."

He said that since the Sipadan crisis, military operations had resulted in the killing of two Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Adan said that for residents of Metro Manila and TV viewers, it was too easy to judge the military.

"But it is not as simple as that if you are a soldier running after the enemy there," he said, adding that the TV cameramen took their footage in the vicinity of the Lamitan hospital when the actual fighting was taking place some 20 km away in the hinterlands.

Golez and Adan said the lack of modern and sufficient weaponry for the military had never been more emphasized than now.

"Do you know that in the year 2000, because of the huge ransom, the Abu Sayyaf got a bigger (amount) than the equipment outlay of the AFP for that year?" Golez said.

He said the P120 million received by the military, which had to be distributed to its various commands nationwide, was "like a drop from heaven," while the estimated "half a billion pesos" in ransom was shared by the bandits and used to buy "modern equipment."

'Man for man'

But for all that, the military can beat the Abu Sayyaf "man for man" as long as there are no human shields in between, Golez said.

"It is not that we are outgunned by the Abu Sayyaf," Adan said.

He said that while the bandits were able to buy firearms last year, the military needed a big amount for its modernization program because of its size.

Adan said the military was facing, apart from the Abu Sayyaf, other "national threats" such as the communist New People's Army and the secessionist MILF.

"Don't forget we have 16,000 NPAs and about the same number of MILF (rebels) roaming the countryside. The range of national threats is so (wide), plus the Spratlys concern. All of these require thorough defense planning, and we are saying we need to modernize," he said.

But he said the AFP understood that the economic situation was dictating what the country could give its military.

"As committed soldiers and policemen, we will fight," Adan declared. "It's the people, through Congress, (who will give us the tools). If you give us a pitchfork to fight, we will fight. If you give us the best ship, we will fight with that. The equipping of the Armed Forces is not an AFP decision. It is a decision of the higher level of government including Congress, which you as Filipino citizens have access to."

In a statement, Ramos' budget secretary Salvador Enriquez said the earnings from the sale of Fort Bonifacio that were earmarked for the AFP modernization program were disbursed during the Estrada administration.

Enriquez said the amount was P5.484 billion, representing the AFP's 35-percent share of the sale of Fort Bonifacio.

Citing records, Enriquez said the budget department issued a special allotment release order for P5.848 billion on May 29, 2000, with the defense department and the AFP general headquarters as recipients.

Air Force

With its depleted fleet, the Philippine Air Force is tapping its civilian reservists to patrol beach resorts and far-flung tourist spots using their own planes to avert another kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf.

PAF chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor ordered the civilian air patrol, under which reservists will monitor sea vessels in any area and report anything unusual to the nearest Tactical Operations Group.

Col. Roberto Ricalde, Air Reserve commander, said the reservists would conduct the patrols during their short-haul flights in the countryside.

Some of the reservists are members of the Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines. Most of them are based at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the airports in Palawan, Caticlan in Aklan, and Iloilo. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

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2 Aetas rescue lost US sailor

(From page A1)

he was handsome," the good-natured Gutierrez said when asked about his first reaction to the sight of the American, who had been missing for 33 hours since armed men attacked his group of Filipino and American soldiers during a mountain hike on Tuesday.

Washburn was also apparently famished and parched, but "we couldn't give him anything to eat because we didn't have anything," Gutierrez said apologetically.

"We're so poor," added the tribesman, a father of three.

Pan said the naval officer asked them if they could bring him to the nearest bus terminal.

But since that was "too far from our place," they decided it was wise to bring him instead to the barangay hall of Sapang Bato, Purok 2, in Angeles City.

When they got there, officials instructed them to escort the sailor directly to the nearest Clark Air Base sentry in Pampanga.

Hugs

While there, the Aetas pooled what little cash they had to buy Washburn a bottle of Coke.

"He was so thirsty he almost swallowed the whole bottle," Gutierrez recalled with delight.

On the dimly lit roads leading to Clark, Washburn was in high spirits, despite having been lost overnight in unknown territory infested by US-military-hating communist rebels.

"He was hugging us, telling us how much he loved us. He was so happy," Gutierrez said of the American.

They reached Clark's Barangay Sapang Bato gate around 10:45 p.m. and were rushed to Clark security headquarters, where the tribesmen turned Washburn over to the airfield's security guards.

"We were interrogated, but after that, we only saw him being whisked off by US servicemen," Pan said.

The last the two saw of their new friend was the American, all smiles, waving from a military jeep as it disappeared into the night.

Rewarded

But the tribesmen's good deed would not go unrewarded, and their lives were about to change.

Clark Development Corp. president Emmanuel Angeles yesterday offered Gutierrez and Pan jobs at Clark.

"We did not help Lieutenant Scott in exchange for anything," said Pan when he and Gutierrez were presented to newsmen at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila yesterday.

"He was just someone who needed our help and we gave it to him. We would do it for anyone who needed our help," Pan said.

"When I opened the door that night . . . I opened it for the One Above. Lieutenant Scott, he was sent to us by God," Gutierrez said.

Both Aetas were grinning from ear to ear.

Gloria 'very happy'

A lot of people were relieved to see Washburn safe—not least of all President Macapagal-Arroyo, who received the serviceman with US diplomats at a hastily arranged meeting yesterday afternoon at Malacañang.

"Thank God you're safe," the President, who is struggling with an unresolved hostage crisis involving three other Americans in Basilan, told Washburn.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal was "very happy" that the serviceman had not been abducted.

In Washburn's home state of Ohio, his family echoed the President's feelings and said they had just kept thinking positive thoughts.

"He's safe and sound, thank God," Dawn Petersime, Washburn's sister, said from St. Mary's in western Ohio.

Her father, Donald Washburn, said that waiting was the hard part. "I've been sleeping off and on all night in a chair with the phone in my hand."

'Nice to be dry'

"It's nice to be dry again," Washburn told reporters with a hearty laugh at a press conference held past 1 a.m. yesterday at the Air Force City in Clark. "For three hours I walked around in the rain."

"Washburn was in good condition but was very hungry after his ordeal and ate almost an entire pizza that was given to him," an official involved in the search efforts said.

The American thanked Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Northern Luzon Command, who was in charge of the search operations.

"I would just like to say I'm very, very impressed with how much effort was put forth in trying to look for me and making sure I got back safely. I would just want to say thank you for all the effort. I appreciate it," Washburn said.

The search involved 58 soldiers from the Philippine Army's 69th Infantry Battalion, two teams from the Philippine Navy's special warfare group and two Huey helicopters from the Philippine Air Force.

Cracking jokes

Washburn said he "just backtracked" along the path that he and his companions took to get to a river in Sapang Bato. It is the most difficult route to the volcano.

During the press briefing, he wore a short-sleeved, checkered green polo and brown hiking shorts—the same clothes he had been wearing since Tuesday.

The American told reporters that, in the hours he was missing, he ate a snack he had brought along for the trek up the slopes and had plenty of water.

After 30 hours hiding in one spot on the slopes, he started walking in the direction of Clark.

"Closer to the base I found a house where people were still up," Washburn, still unshaven but cracking jokes, told reporters. "I asked for directions. They were helpful and took me to a police station."

"A good sleep would be nice," he said, but "I need to go back to work."

Asked to summarize his ordeal, he said: "It was OK."

Souvenir slippers

Washburn was among five American servicemen descending the volcano with four armed Philippine Navy escorts and two tour guides Tuesday when a large band of armed men fired near them and then took their weapons.

Washburn was reportedly washing his rubber slippers at a nearby creek when the attack began. An Air Force pilot gave the slippers back to him at the press conference at Clark.

The American told officials that he thought at first that the Filipino escorts' guns had gone off accidentally, until a bullet struck near him and he saw his friends duck for cover.

He said he hid about 200 meters away from the attack, then holed up for the night when he realized he was alone.

The officer spent the night on the slopes of the 1,445-meter volcano, a tourist attraction that he said he didn't plan to revisit any time soon.

"Maybe I'll find some other place in the Philippines to visit. I saw enough of that for a while. I was enjoying the local scenery," he joked.

Washburn said he had tried to flag down helicopters searching for him. "I saw all of them," he said. "Unfortunately they didn't see me."

He only moved from his hiding place when it began to rain around 7 p.m. Wednesday, eventually reaching the Aeta settlement.

Mountain boy

Commissioned as an officer in 1998, Washburn has been in the Philippines five times. Before he turned up safe, his father said that the navy man would have little difficulty surviving under difficult circumstances.

"He's an outdoorsman. He's . . . a mountain boy," the father told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from Ohio.

Washburn was participating in a joint, 11-day military exercise that began on June 1. About 3,000 US and Philippine troops are involved.

The naval games will continue despite Tuesday's attack, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan announced following Washburn's recovery.

"I don't think the incident will affect the exercise," Adan said of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (Carat) 2001 exercises.

Adan said Washburn would eventually rejoin his naval unit for the exercises.

Col. Charles Hotchkiss, deputy wing commander of the 1st Tactical Operations Wing, said the Philippine Air Force, which has jurisdiction over the Mt. Pinatubo area, has not recommended the suspension of treks to the volcano. He stressed that what happened to Washburn's group was "isolated."

NPA owns attack

The New People's Army command in Pampanga yesterday owned up to what it called the "ambush" in text messages sent to reporters at Clark.

Contacts in the communist movement confirmed that the text messages came from the NPA's Pampanga commanders, identified only as Ka Roman and Ka Elsie.

The contacts said the NPA would issue a formal statement on the incident later.

But Adan stressed that the military does not believe that the rebels were behind the attack, although the assailants identified themselves as NPA guerrillas.

"These are local armed bandits," Adan said. "If they were NPA (rebels), knowing their political objective, they would have capitalized on having Americans as hostages."

The NPA rebels "are not stupid. They would have realized these were Americans. They could have held on to the group," Garcia said at Clark.

Garcia said the most likely suspects were members of the Salaguinto Group, an "armed criminal band" operating around Mt. Pinatubo, engaged in manufacturing fake gold bars, cattle rustling and petty crimes. Most of its 20 to 30 members are Aetas, Garcia said.

Army soldiers, Garcia assured reporters, are pursuing the attackers.

Garcia said there would be "more stringent measures in the matter of security" for US troops participating in all war games under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

But right now, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said at a hotel forum in Manila, "what is important is that (this story) has a very happy ending." *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Juliet Javellana, Martin Marfil; AP and AFP*

3 Cebu trade groups back Basilan emergency rule

(From page A1)

cañang was no longer considering the proposal, Golez said the Palace was still keeping all options open.

Golez said the President was merely responding to media when she said that she was consulting with her advisers about the proposal.

"As of now, I would like to state that there is some resistance against a state of emergency or martial law but we will listen to the proposals from the AFP and the PNP," Golez said.

In a letter dated June 6, the three business groups expressed concern that the initial signs of economic turnaround brought about by Ms Macapagal's assumption to power had been lost due to the hostage crisis.

The letter was signed by Sabino Dapat, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president; Raymund Patuasi, head of the Cebu Business Club; and Elberto Emphasis, Mandaue City Chamber of Commerce president.

The Cebu business leaders are worried because the government "appears helpless" before "these savage, barbaric and heartless criminals who continue to mock our sensibilities as a people."

They said that services, Cebu's biggest economic sector, had been badly hit by the terrorist activities of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The business leaders lamented that hotels and restaurants in Cebu were "running below 40 percent capacity and workers had to be laid off."

"Foreign locators are scared and new investments have to be postponed," they told the President. "If this will drag on, our very fragile economy will revert back to its down spin."

Mandaue's business leader Emphasis said in an interview that the hostage crisis had affected businesses oriented toward tourists and expatriates.

Emphasis said expatriates were no longer going out at night because of the security advisories from their respective embassies.

"We cannot solve this (hostage crisis) through normal police-level measures," Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, AFP spokesperson, said in a breakfast forum.

"Definitely, measures like (martial law or state of emergency) will help us prevent terrorists, bandits and enemies of the state from being sustained by the very community (we are sworn to protect)," he added.

Adan said help extended by communities in Basilan to the Abu Sayyaf had given the bandits an edge over the military.

"We looked at how other countries solved insurgency and we saw the need for extra measures to prevent the fish from surviving in the water," he said.

The AFP spokesperson said the bandits would not survive without supporters giving them food, information and shelter.

Adan noted that the bandits, when armed, could be arrested as combatants but when they leave their firearms inside a house they become peaceful noncombatants. He lamented that the houses could not be searched without a court warrant.

Adan said the proposal to declare a state of emergency or martial law came from sectors outside the military.

He said the military had not formally recommended that Malacañang declare martial law or a state of emergency.

In the same forum, Chief Insp. Noli Romana, the PNP spokesperson, also favored a state of emergency or martial law.

"On our side, we believe that different situations require different approaches and perhaps this situation might work for that concern," Romana said.

For its part, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has cautioned the government against arming civilians in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

The military had earlier called on vigilantes to help it neutralize the bandits.

The CBCP said the country's experience with martial law showed that arming the vigilante groups could lead to atrocities against civilians.

The CBCP is not against tapping vigilantes in countering terrorists. But it wants members of vigilante groups to be screened and supervised by military officers.

In the wake of the burning of a church and the abduction of church workers in Basilan, the CBCP instructed the clergy in war-torn places to "stand by their flock."

"They should stay behind to protect their flock and continue their mission," Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the CBCP, said.

A total of 18 priests—12 diocesan and six religious priests from the Claretians and Franciscan orders—are working in the diocese of Basilan. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

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Welcoat trips Ana, forces KO tiff

By Dennis Eroa

TITLEHOLDER Welcoat Paints rode on a blistering fourth period to whip Ana Freezers, 72-53, and arrange a sudden death for a final slot in the PBL Chairman's Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Nursing a two-point lead at the end of the third quarter, 48-46, the Paintmasters leaned on playmaker Eugene Tan and swingman Brix Encarnacion to unload a 16-0 bomb at the start of the fourth period.

"Now it's back to square one," said Welcoat mentor Junel Baculi. Ana enjoys a twice-to-beat advantage.

The decider is set on Tuesday.

Like Welcoat, GIV Beauty Soap also forced a playoff in the other half of the crossover semis by downing Shark Energy Drink, 58-34 last Tuesday.

"I remain confident," said Ana mentor Rudy Mendoza, who surprised his team by coming straight from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport where he arrived from a business trip.

In the first game, bemedalled Boysen-MLQU stayed on track for a second straight title with a hard-earned, 69-63 victory over Univ. of Assumption in the Crystal Spring PYBL Cup.

Edilito Saygo, Mar Limbo and Rodel Mallari hit their strides in the fourth period as Boysen-MLQU survived Assumption repeated rallies. Coach Rex Manansala's charges will now wait for the winner between Regent Cheeseballs and UP today.

First Game

BOYSEN-MLQU 69—Saygo 20, Limbo 15, Mallari 12, Rivera 7, Habelito 6, Medenilla 5, Conmigo 2, **Mercado 2, Franco 0.**

ASSUMPTION 63—Galura 19, Santos 18, Alberto 12, Duyag 5, Sinque 5, Rittis 2, Gopez 1, De la Cruz 0, Dungca 0, Estanislao 0, Julco 0.

Quarters: 20-16, 38-35, 53-49, 69-63.

Second Game

WELCOAT 72—De Ocampo 20, Encarnacion 14, Ritualo 10, Cruz 9, Tan 6, Manalo 5, Carmona 4, Orfrecio 2, Tolentino 2.

ANA FREEZERS 53—Pascual 16, Artadi 10, R. Mendoza 9, Capus 7, Vilar 6, Mendoza 5, De Castro 0, Torres 0, Tubid 0, Mendez 0.

Quarters:19-12, 31-25, 48-46, 72-53.

St. Francis gains final

NATIONAL Students champion St. Francis of Assisi overpowered Beijing Shougong Industrial College, 72-54, and entered the 2nd Asian University Basketball Championship final yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

St. Francis will meet Chinese Taipei University Sports Foundation tomorrow for the title. The Taiwanese banked on the heady plays of Wu Chang Chieh and Chang Chi Feng to frustrate NCAA titleholder St. Benilde, 81-80.

Alaska, Sta. Lucia gun for 2-0 records

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports)*
5:15 p.m. – Tanduay vs SLR
7:30 p.m. – Pop Cola vs Alaska

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AN EARLY leadership is what Alaska Milk and Sta. Lucia Realty are gunning for when they tackle separate rivals today in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at Philsports.

But to achieve that same goal, the Aces and the Realtors are facing different obstacles in Pop Cola and Tanduay Gold, respectively, especially because the Rhummasters and the Panthers are raring to bounce back from similar dismal debuts.

The Aces, being steered by Terrance Badgette, are fresh from their 84-81 win over Batang Red Bull during the conference curtain-raiser in Balanga, Bataan last Saturday.

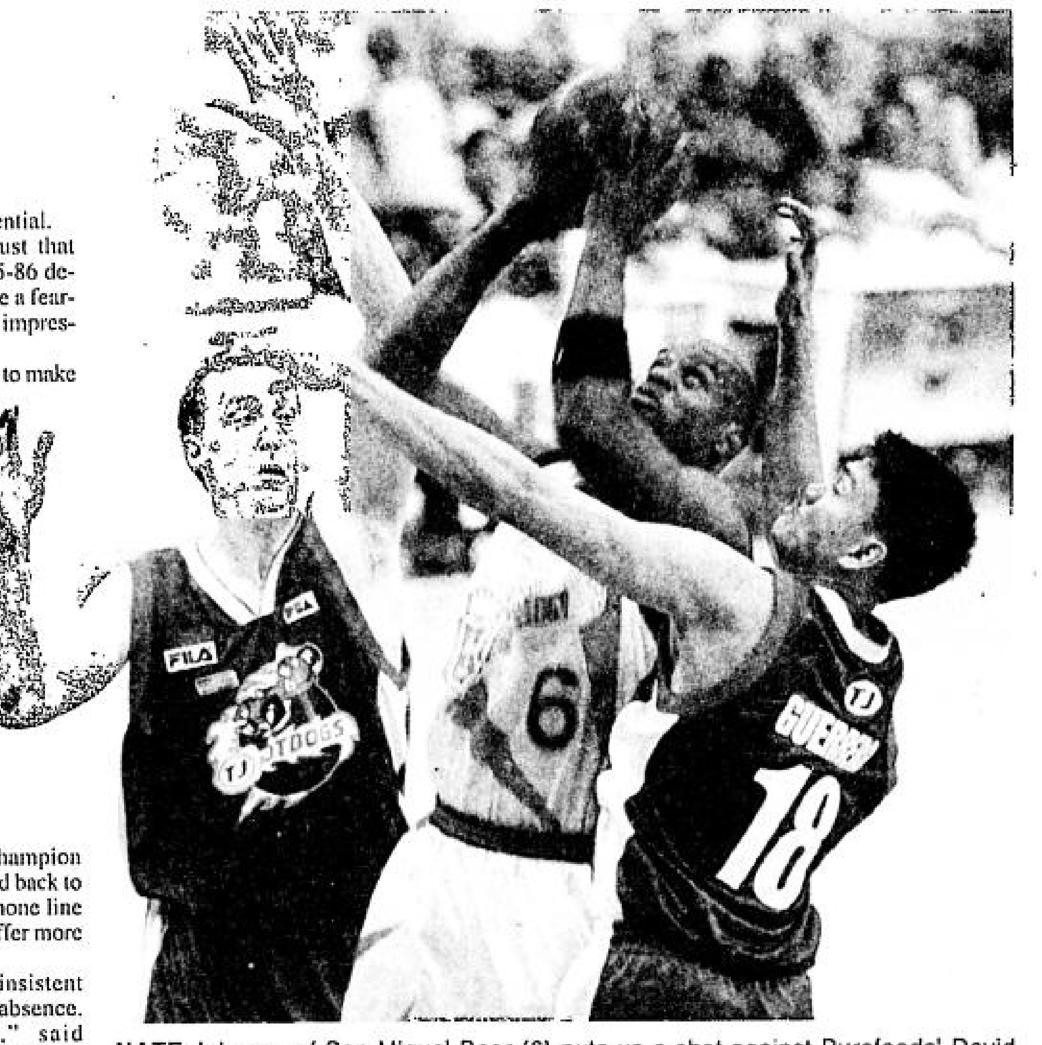
But that can't be a gauge of the Aces' strength yet, according to coach Tim Cone, who admitted that his team still has to show its potential.

The Aces have a chance to do just that against the Panthers, who despite a 95-86 defeat to Sta. Lucia last Sunday, still have a fearsome reputation brought about by the impressive showing of import Jason Sasser.

In the other game, the Realtors hope to make a 2-0 start with Ansu Sesay in tow when they battle the Rhummasters at 5:15 p.m.

Despite being out of shape, Sesay still managed to put order in Sta. Lucia's offense even as he pitted against the equally flashy Sasser.

However, it was local playmaker Paolo Mendoza, who made that first win possible by draining 16 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter to wear down the hard-fighting Panthers.



NATE Johnson of San Miguel Beer (6) puts up a shot against Purefoods' David Wood (left) and Paul Guerrero in their PBA game Wednesday night. The Beermen won, 100-80.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Coscolluela moves up

By Jong Arcano

CHALLENGED to win a crown an old friend couldn't defend due to a pressing business matter, Caloy Coscolluela is doing everything to rekindle his competitive fire.

The man on a mission stepped closer to victory in his maiden Philippine Senior Amateur Open stint after a one-over-par 73 yesterday propelled Coscolluela to a three-stroke lead at Wack Wack west.

Alex Montelibano, last year's champion who made a late withdrawal and rushed back to Bacolod, was on Coscolluela's cellphone line as soon as latter's round was over to offer more words of encouragement.

"He (Montelibano) was really insistent that I join and try to win it in his absence. Hopefully, I won't fail him," said Coscollluela, the golf director of Alabang Country Club who once played for the national team in the 1970s.

Slashers vs Eagles

GAMES TODAY *(RMC Gym, Davao)*
3:00 p.m.—Cebu vs Socsargen
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs Davao

By Roy Luarca

DAVAO CITY—Can the Negros Slashers survive the absence of Cid White against the Davao Eagles tonight?

The answer will be known after their 5:30 p.m. encounter in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Rizal Memorial College Gym here.

The 6-foot-4 White was slapped a one-game suspension and a P20,000 fine for committing a deliberate foul on Matt Mitchell during the Slashers' 95-91 victory over the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems on Sunday.

In that game, White contributed 20 points, 8 rebounds and 3 steals while helping guard Mitchell.

Sans White, the Slashers shallow frontline has further been depleted with John Ferriols, Reynel Hugnatan and Leo Bat-og left to tend the board for Coach Robert Sison's charges.

Luckily for Negros, Davao doesn't also possess a legit center with Coach Jun Noel making do with natural power forwards Ryan Bernardo and Erian Daja, both 6-4, and 6-5 Rolly Menor.

The Eagles have chosen to rebuild with young and homegrown talents like former Philippine Youth member Menor and varsity stalwarts Peter June Simon, Dennis Concha, Chris Jatico and Daja.

For leadership and experience, Coach Jun Noel will bank on returnee Bong Marata, former Slasher Romy dela Rosa and former Gem Mike Manigo.

Still, the Slashers have the offensive edge with former MVP John Ferriols, Johnedel Cardel and Ruben dela Rosa at the helm.

Bata & Co. to World Pool meet

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WORLD-RENOWNED Efren "Bata" Reyes, billiards' wizard of wonder, will spearheaded a powerhouse Philippine-Puyat-Sports team in the much-awaited World Professional Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, next month.

In an interview, team manager Rolly Vicente said Reyes, who won the coveted world title in 1999, will be joined by Germany-based Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam. He added that he was requesting for two more Filipino players to be added to the lineup, possibly upcoming Ronnie Alcano and battle-tested Antonio "Nickoy" Lining.

"But that's still a request," Vicente stressed, "which I will have to relay first to boss Putch and his brother Popit (Aristeo and Jose Puyat), the Philippine team's benefactors since 1985." The chummy Vicente said his players are also set to play in the US Open this September.

At present, Reyes, Bustamante, Luat and Andam are the rage of the international billiards scene. The subject of virtually every pool-related discussion at the pool tables because of their awesome skills, the player shave earned, fittingly well, the title of "Supreme Masters of Billiards." The records speak for themselves.

Ignored in the beginning, the Filipino players rose to pool prominence in 1985 when the Puyat brothers bankrolled their campaign in the United States. That year, Bata Reyes won the Houston 9-Ball International Open and the xxxx Regent Open in Reno, highlighting the firs tin a series of stirring victories unprecedented in billiards history.

Showing the world that the Filipino is second to no one in billiards, Reyes became the first non-American to win the prestigious US Open in 1994, beating then No. 1 player Nick Varner and defeating again the American in Manila in 1995, in the process unseating the topranked Varner and xxxx the monicker. "The Magician" from sportswriters.

In 1997 another Filipino player, Jose "Amang" Parica, an original member of Puyat Sports now permanently living in the US, dominated the pool scene. While in 1998, flamboyant Bustamante, now based in Kiel, Germany, became the undisputed king of billiards. Luat, a native of Angeles City like Reyes, also boasts impressive credentials. In 1999, he won the Northwest 9-Ball Championship in Idaho and placed third behind American living legend Johnny Archer and Jeremy Jones in the US Open in Virginia. On the other hand, Andam from Dadiangan, Cotabato, was a topnotch national player, winning four gold medals in the 1991 Manila SEA Games. In the US tour, he won the Dallas Open and the Target Pool Championship in Las Vegas, aside from finishing second to Archer in the California Clash tournament in San Diego

But the Filipinos' domination of the sport is not a compelling reason for the players and billiards officials to rest on their laurels.

"The players cannot be at the top forever," Putch Puyat cautioned. "We must realize this and be prepared. If at all, this international glory should serve to further fanned their competitive flames and preserve the country's place of honor in professional pool."

French frustrates Bill, ousts Agassi

GROSJEAN

PARIS—Former President Clinton showed up at the French Open to root for Andre Agassi, stayed for most of three sets and saw him win three games.

While Clinton had little to cheer about, Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean delighted the partisan Parisians in the capacity crowd with the match of his life Wednesday to win 1-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3.

The shocker ended Agassi's quest for a second successive Grand Slam championship and a second title at Roland Garros. He won the Australian Open in January and the French in 1999.

"It's pretty disappointing at the moment," said a terse, sullen Agassi. "I played well. He played a lot better."

In truth, the third-seeded Agassi played poorly, particularly after Clinton arrived at the start of the second set. At times, Grosjean said, it appeared as if Agassi wasn't even trying—perhaps because he was so frustrated.

The 10th-seeded Grosjean's opponent in the semifinals will be No. 13 Alex Corretja, who advanced by beating unseeded 19-year-old Roger Federer 7-5, 6-4, 7-5. The other match Friday pits top-seeded two-time champion Gustavo Kuerten against No. 4 Juan Carlos Ferrero.

AP

Anton, Gutierrez shine

ZED-GULF Oil-MP Turbo Racing Team drivers Carlos Anton and Monching Gutierrez lived up to expectations by routing the opposition in the 2001 Subic GP Series held last Sunday at the the Subic Bay Freeport.

Anton grabbed the title in the 6th round of the SVI Production Class and Class A of the Philippine junior Touring Car Championship by outdriving TEC Team driver Carlo Pastor at the start to anchor his team to a 1-2 finish.

Veteran karter and saloon driver George Apacible finished second to take second place in the Production Class and first' in Class B of the PJTCC.

Anton's win was just reward after placing third in the crash-marred fifth round of the same class earlier. Anton took an early lead in the round but lost it after dicing and scraping metal with eventual second placer Enzo Pastor, the younger brother of Carlo. The duel between Anton and Pastor allowed the stalking Miko David to pass and claim first place

Monching Gutierrez and comebacking newscaster Manolet Llige duplicated the feat of their veteran teammates by finishing 1-2 in the 6th round of the SVI Challenge Cup.

Gutierrez engaged the father of the Pastor clan, Tom Pastor, in an exciting duel in the early laps of the race, which saw them alternating as frontrunner.

Karting 5th leg slated

WITH four legs ran by far, the race in the various categories in the 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships is expected to be tighter when the series resumes with the fifth leg this weekend at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Carmona, Cavite.

The Carmona Circuit Philippines and the Philippine International Karting Association jointly organized the event.

Sponsors are Bridgestone, Nokia, Coca-Cola, Demvel's Enterprises, Eastway Racing and Matchbox/Hot Wheels.

The frontrunner in the centerpiece Super A category is Jeff Cabalinan who scored back-to-back wins in the third and fourth legs.

Nevertheless, Cabalinan is not out of the woods as a host of equally talented karters are out to dislodge him from his position. Manuel Mayo, Mon Tanjuatco, Manny Sy and multi-titled karting and formula driver Pepon Marave remain within striking distance in the quest for the Karter of the Year award.

In the Cadet 60 Class, Lorenzo Rijk is at the forefront. Rijk is expected to get stiff competition from Yeoj Marquez and Ken Monzaner, budding karters who have shown much promise in the initial outings.

Boysen-PBC tilt tomorrow

THE BIGGEST and most-awaited bowling event of the year— the Boysen-PBC International Open Bowling Championships 2001— reels off tomorrow (June 9) at 10 a.m. at the Green Valley Country Club, Pasig City.

Reelected Senator Franklin Drilon is guest of honor and speaker.

Overall chair Alex Lim said the FIQ-WTBA sanctioned tournament runs up to June 23 to be followed by the televised ESPN for finalists set June 24 and 25.

PBC president Steve Hontiveros said the competition, held in cooperation with the Philippines Sports Commission, will serve as a crucial event for members of the Philippine bowling team seeing action in the SEA Games this September.

Among the sports leaders invited in the opening rites are PSC chair Butch Tuason, POC president Celso Dayrit, PSC Commissioners Weena Lim, Richie Garcia, Butch Ramirez and Cynthia Carrion and all PBC past presidents and association presidents.

Pasay derby tonight

METRO Manila's well-known cockers collide in another special 4-cock derby tonight at Pasay City Cockpit.

More than 60 fights are in store for aficionados beginning at 7 p.m., according to hosts Ka Dindo and Mon Torres.

Meanwhile, the Pasay City Cockpit 14th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby, one of the most awaited major events in the national cockfighting circuit, has been slated on July 19 and 21 (Thursday and Saturday).

At stake is a guaranteed prize of at least P1 million while entry fee is P15,000.

Participants who pay the entry fee on the first day will receive an imported VCD player. The champions will get a bonus of one 21-inch color TV each while runners-up get a CD stereo double cassette recorder.

"We are expecting more than 150 entries for this event because as of yesterday, we already received numerous cockhouse reservations," said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

For inquiries, please contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

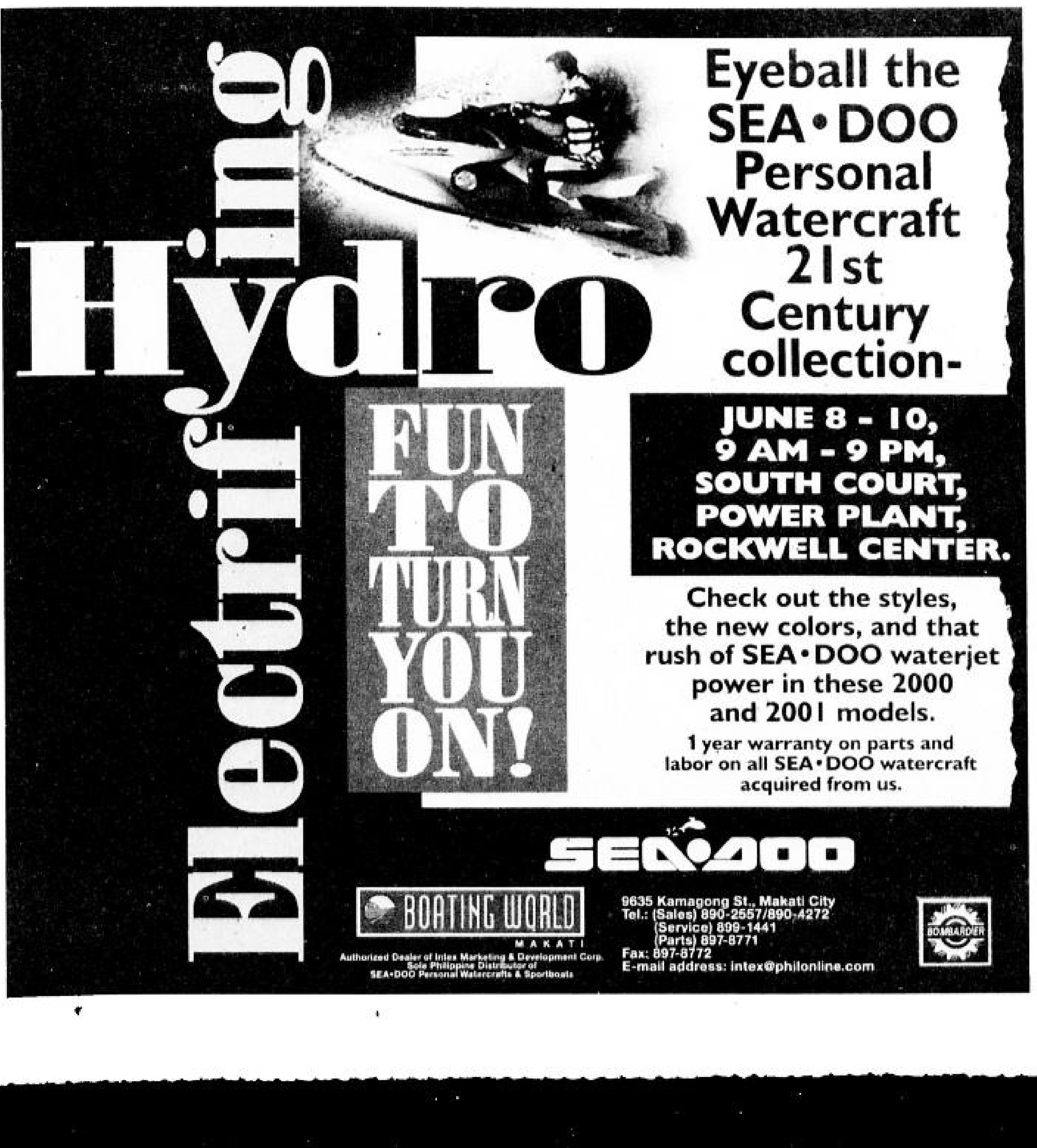
7-cock tourney

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's Araw Ng Kalayaan 7-Cock Derby, highly-awaited by smalltime and medium-scale cockers due to the whopping P5 million prize up for grabs, finally starts on Tuesday, June 12, featuring the first day of eliminations.

Sponsors of the event are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Participants may field an entry in any of the elimination round schedules on June 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 and 23. A maximum of 40 entries will be accommodated per elimination day. All qualifiers will advance to the finals on June 26.

Interested parties may contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 535-2341 and 531-4005.



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BOMBARDIER

Puyat reinstalled as BAP president

By June Navarro

PUYAT

DESPITE a court order rescheduling the date and time of the elections, the Philippine Olympic Committee-sanctioned Basketball Association of the Philippines proceeded with the exercise and re-installed Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat as president of the association.

Yesterday's polls defied the ruling made by Judge Artemio Tipon of the Manila Regional Trial Court ordering the feuding parties to reset the exercise on June 20 at the court's library.

Puyat won via a 13-0 shutout with nine members of the electorate present and three acting as proxies to executive vice president Gregorio Narvasa, VP for Luzon Jaime Dichaves, CAR regional director Edgar Avila and Region VIII director Lucrecio Calo casting their votes.

BAP secretary general Nic Jorge represented Avila, PBA exec Ricky Palou took the cudgels for Narvasa while former swimming association secretary general Rey Tang represented Calo and Dichaves.

PLDT top honcho Manny Pangilinan was elected in absentia as chair of the board with the same number of votes.

Brigido Dulay, legal counsel for Puyat's BAP, said they hope that the court reconsider the appeal, which they filed yesterday at Tipon's sala.

They are praying that the order be rescinded and the elections be acknowledged.

But Quinteliano Literal's group denounced the elections, explaining it is a clear defiance of the law.

Literal, together with the 18 members of the electorate, yesterday refused to participate and insisted that Tipon's ruling be upheld.

"Defying the judge's order is a clear indication of Puyat's penchant for dictatorship," said Bonifacio Alentajan, legal counsel of Literal's faction.

He also branded Jorge, Palou, former ABC secretary general Moying Martelino as impostors for having no personality in the BAP leadership crisis.

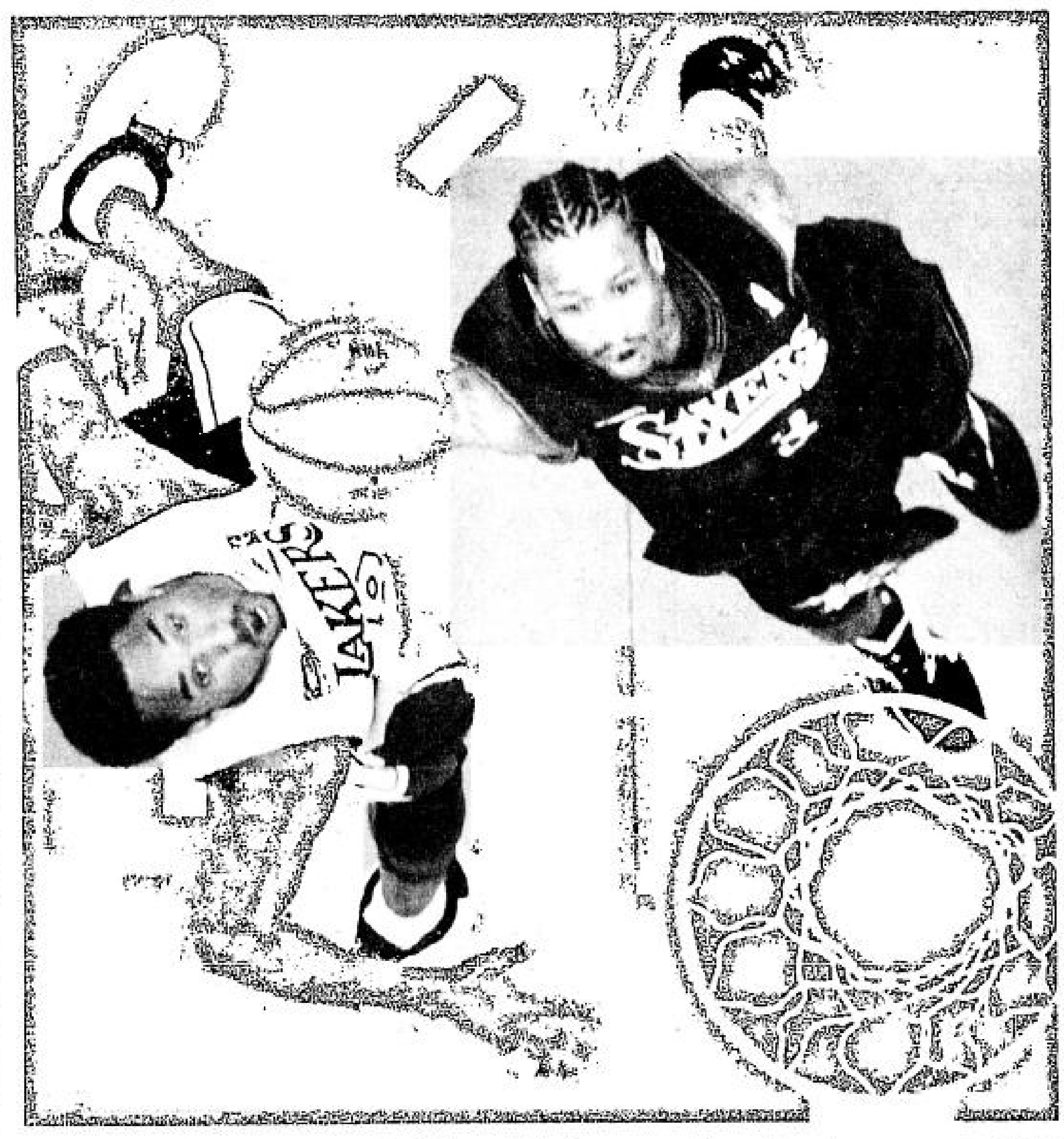
What puzzles the mind was Calo's presence at the assembly of Literal's group at the Century Park Hotel when his name cropped up in the list who voted for Puyat.

Calo, however, strongly denied this and reaffirmed his allegiance to Literal's BAP.

The Philippine Olympic Committee sent Salvador Andrada, chair of the Olympic body's membership committee, as witness to the proceedings.

With the POC's blessings, Puyat said their group would notify the result of the elections to the Fiba, the world governing body on the sport.

The poll was supervised by Fr. Raymond Holscher of Ateneo University, Fr. Paul de Vera of San Beda College and former Region VI director Jose Piamonte.



IVERSON (right) scores against Bryant in the second quarter. Iverson completely overshadowed Bryant in Game 1 with 48 points compared to the latter's 15. AP

76ers stun Lakers in OT

(From page 24)

"That's the way we are. We play hard," Iverson said. "We came in here expecting to win. We know we can win. Everybody's been counting us out."

O'Neal finished with 44 points and 20 rebounds, but Bryant scored just 15 points on 7-for-22 shooting.

"I don't think Kobe Bryant had a Kobe kind of day and he will play better Friday," Snow said. "In OT, we came out slow but gathered the troops, Allen hit a big shot and we got some stops."

Game 2 is Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila) at the Staples Center. Iverson had his third consecutive 40-point game, and Snow and Dikembe Mutombo added 13 points each.

Fifteen minutes before tip-off, the crowd at Staples Center began chanting, "SWEEP! SWEEP!"

But when Iverson started hitting from all over, the chorus turned to "OOH" and "AAH."

Iverson scored 30 points in the first half as the 76ers came back from an early 13-point deficit, and he opened the second half with a jumper that hit nothing but net and brought more howls of astonishment from the celebrity-studded crowd.

Midway through the third quarter, Iverson came up with a steal, raced ahead of O'Neal and braced himself for a 350-pound (157.5-kilogram) impact as he went up for a lay-up. O'Neal, however, barely even swiped at the ball. The lay-up gave Philadelphia a 68-56 lead, and a three-point play by Snow put the Sixers ahead 73-58 with 5:23 left in the third.

That's when the Lakers started to show some resiliency of their own.

O'Neal scored the Lakers' next 12 points, dominating Matt Geiger and Todd MacCulloch as 76ers coach Larry Brown gave Mutombo (who had three fouls) an extended rest—the final 6:18 of the quarter. Brown picked up a technical foul with 55 seconds left in the quarter, and the Lakers were able to cut their deficit to 79-77 entering the fourth.

Mutombo made a hook shot with 8:41 left for an 88-81 lead before Lue—perhaps the only player in the NBA quicker than Iverson—came up with two steals and a 3-pointer that got the crowd on its feet.

Mutombo went to the bench with his fifth foul with 5:30 left, and Geiger fouled out a minute later while trying to box out O'Neal. The big fella had a chance to tie the game at 92-all but missed both free throws, but Bryant hit a jumper with 3-1/2 minutes left to even the score

O'Neal dunked off a pass from Bryant to give the Lakers a 94-92 lead, but Snow answered with a runner with 1:19 left. Philadelphia missed its next two shots but grabbed offensive rebounds both times.

Mutombo missed two foul shots with 34 seconds left—the Sixers had been 19-for-19 until then, and Bryant lost the ball out of bounds with 18.9 seconds left. *AP*

The scores:

PHILADELPHIA 107—Iverson 48, Snow 13, Mutombo 13, Geiger 10, McKie 9, Bell 6, Hill 4, Jones 4, MacCulloch 0, Ollie 0.

LOS ANGELES 101—O'Neal 44, Fox 19, Bryant 15, Grant 8, Shaw 7, Lue 5, Horry 3, Fisher 0.

Quarters: 22-23, 56-50, 79-77, 94-all, 107-101.

Brown leaving 76ers?

LOS ANGELES—Larry Brown's first victory in the NBA Finals was tarnished by rumors he's leaving the Philadelphia 76ers after this season.

Brown would not comment on the matter, but Sixers president Pat Croce said he was "shocked" to hear about the report on NBC's pregame show. NBC reported Brown plans to take time off at the end of the season and might retire.

"I know nothing about it," Croce said after Philadelphia beat the Los Angeles Lakers 107-101 Wednesday night to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

NBA boss: I am not a crook

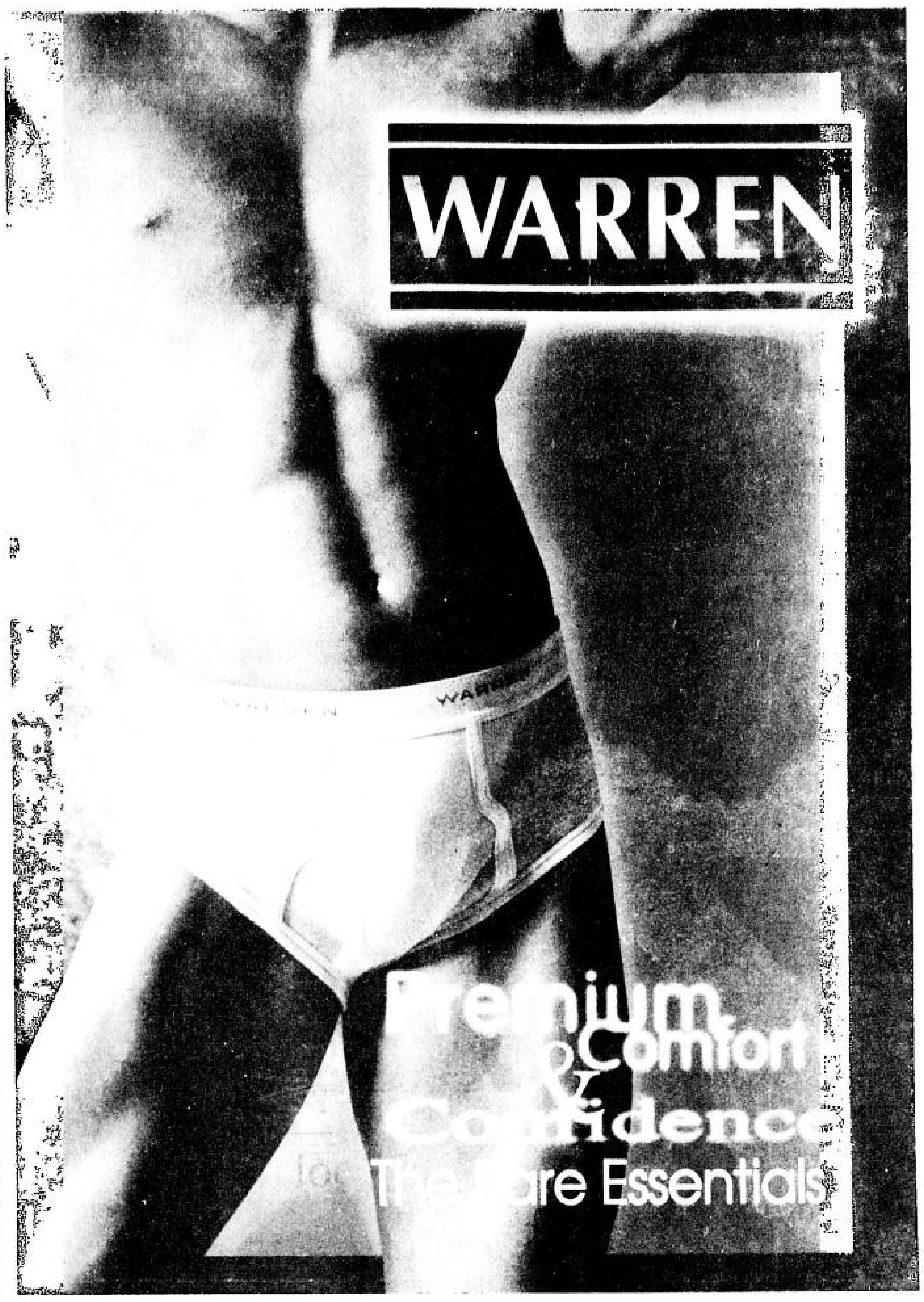
LOS ANGELES—Moments after laughing off the notion of using referees in a match-fixing conspiracy, David Stern displayed the business savvy that makes people see such plots in the first place.

The NBA commissioner spoke here Wednesday before the start of the NBA Finals, talking of the league's future as well as its credibility after Milwaukee coach George Karl spoke of a conspiracy against his team in the semi-finals. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Top Bullet 2. Proud Conquistador 3. Exotic 4. Alabang Boy
Race 2—1. Imperial Act 2. Queen of D Jungle 3. Ultima Adios
Race 3—1. Ocean Magic 2. Waw 3. Palutina 4. Shot Gun
Race 4—1. Corporate Law 2. Triple Joy 3. Houdini
Race 5—1. Techno Blues 2. Thunder Fire 3. Extraordinaire 4. Mr. Lucas
Race 6—1. Charisma 2. Profitable 3. Golden Disc 4. Silver Lining
Race 7—1. May's Magic 2. Great Revelation 3. Perfect Gift 4. Ground Fighter/Spice of Life
Race 8—1. Boss Lino 2. Filthy Rich 3. Little Red
Race 9—1. American Beauty 2. Earth Angel 3. Fair Warning 4. Classy Babe



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

RP boxer whips Korean rival

BELFAST, Ireland—Harry Tanamor kept the Philippines' hope for a medal finish going when he defeated his South Korean foe Wednesday night in the World Amateur Boxing Championships here at the Odyssey Arena. The 19-year-old Tanamor won over South Korean Lee Kyung Yeh.

More than 100 years for Casper son

SAN DIEGO—David Casper, the son of two-time US Open champion Billy Casper, was sentenced Wednesday to more than 100 years in state prison for a 1999 crime spree that included burglarizing his parents' home and stealing a family car. Superior Court Judge Frederic Link sentenced Casper to 104 years and eight months in prison under California's "Three Strikes" law because of a prior burglary conviction. *AP*

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76ers stun Lakers in OT

Iverson sizzles as LA win run ends

LOS ANGELES—There won't be a sweep in the NBA Finals unless it's the 76ers—not the Lakers—who can pull one off.

In a thrilling opener to the championship round, Allen Iverson had a mesmerizing first half, a poor second half and a clutch overtime, scoring 48 points to lead Philadelphia to a 107-101 victory Wednesday night.

Iverson scored seven straight points after the clock ticked inside two minutes to give Philadelphia a lead it never relinquished. The 76ers ended the Lakers' 19-game winning streak, giving them their first loss in 67 days.

"They thought we would get swept and that is like a slap in the face," Iverson said.

Iverson and Shaquille O'Neal both had 41 points at the end of the fourth quarter, but Iverson scored only three over the final 19 minutes of regulation as he was hounded defensively by speedy Lakers reserve Tyronn Lue.

O'Neal hit a jump hook for the first points of the overtime, Kobe Bryant spun around Eric Snow for a layup and O'Neal hit one of two from the line for a five-point lead with three minutes left.

Raja Bell flung up an underhanded shot with his left hand that fell through, and Iverson hit two foul shots to get the 76ers within 99-98 with 1:46 left.

Lue then missed a drive and Iverson beat him downcourt and hit a wide-open 3-pointer. After a turnover by Rick Fox, Iverson buried a corner jumper over Lue for a 103-99 lead.

Bryant answered with a jumper, but Snow hit a runner from the lane with 10.5 seconds left for a four-point lead that all but ended the game—along with all the talk about how the Lakers would sweep the 76ers and become the first team to go undefeated through the postseason.

76ERS STUN/ A23

IVERSON is all smiles during a news conference moments after the 76ers beat the Lakers. AP

GEN TXT

June Gig Guide

"Oye!" Sabor Latino at The Abbey — 1
Catch the Latin fever with top rate Latin music and dance with Sabor Latino band!
First 50 GENTXTers get VIP passes to the event.
>> The Abbey, Cebu - 7:30 PM**

Crossover Presents: Regine — 7
Asia's Songbird serenades lucky GENTXTers in a night of stirring ballads. First 5 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 6 get a pair of tickets.
>>Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental - 8:00 PM*

"The Replicant", Advanced Screening — 11
(In cooperation with DWTM)
Jean Claude Van Damme turns evil in this action-packed thriller about a crazed serial killer. First 50 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 8 get a pair of free movie invites.
>> SM Megamall Cinema 11 - 7:30 PM*

Ralph Launch — 16&17
Ralph Lauren launches its newest fragrance for women, Ralph, with a double treat for GENTXTers: a surprise gift for the first 1,000 GENTXTers and movie invites for the first 40 GENTXTers at the event to download the special ringtone and the Ralph logo on the first day.
>> North Court, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

"Tomb Raider", Advanced Screening — 20
(In cooperation with Channel E!)
Angelina Jolie slinks into character as video game heroine Lara Croft. First 15 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 19 get a pair of free invites.
>>Louie's THX Cinema- 7:30 PM*

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Eagles' Bar, Marco Polo, Davao
25% off on food and drinks.

Maricaban Bay, Palawan
50% discount on all published room rates, 5% discount on package rates and 20% discount on hobbiecat, kayaking, wind surfing and banana boat.

Ralph Lauren
A free travel-sized fragrance with any purchase of any Ralph Lauren fragrance (excluding Ralph).

*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4/F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecile, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.
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Tinga warns of violence A26
2 hackers charged A27

METRO

LOUIS C. CAMINO, Editor

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TEXTLINER

Cop is kidnapping brains, says suspect

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A MEMBER of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) is the mastermind behind the abduction and murder of Mark Bacalla last month, according to one of four suspects arrested earlier.

A high ranking official of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday confirmed to the INQUIRER that suspect Jerro Garcia, had told NBI investigators that the CIDG official was the apparent mastermind.

The NBI official said Garcia claimed he had heard another suspect, Onofre Surat, taking orders from the CIDG official over the phone.

Garcia was a waiter in a restaurant owned by Surat, investigators said. Surat was said to be a friend of the Bacallas.

"We are due to take a sworn statement from Garcia soon to make his allegation formal," said the NBI official.

Once a sworn statement is taken from Garcia, who is assessed to be the least guilty suspect, investigators will "invite" the CIDG official for questioning, according to the NBI official.

COP IS KIDNAPPING/ A26

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TO ANSWER QUIZ
Key in **QUIZ <question number> <answer>** and send to **288**. Example: **QUIZ 1 C**. Send your reply back to **288**.

You will be informed immediately if your answer is correct or incorrect. If your answer is incorrect, you will no longer receive questions for that day.

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If you no longer wish to participate key in **QUIZ QUIT** and send to **288**. Participants who quit but previously earned a raffle entry will still be entitled to the grand raffle draw for that month.

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Mob kills laborer

A LABORER was killed after about 20 men ganged up on him in Pandacan, Manila early yesterday morning.

Police identified the victim as Elvis Visaya, 20, single and a resident of Kahilum 3 Interior 27, Pandacan, Manila. His attackers were still unidentified as of yesterday afternoon.

According to SPO1 Raul Olavarrio of Western Police District Homicide Section, Visaya was on his way home after attending a drinking party on Labores Extension, also in Pandacan.

At 12:10 a.m., a group of at least 20 men for no apparent reason chased him and cornered him in a dark alley, police said. The mob beat up, stabbed and shot Visaya twice, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 8, 2001
9th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Tb 11:5-17**
Gospel:	**Mk 12:35-37**

As Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he said, "The teachers of the Law say that the Messiah is the son of David. How can that be? For David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit declared: *The Lord said to my Lord: sit at my right until I put your enemies under your feet*. If David himself calls him Lord, in what way can he be his son?"

Many people came to Jesus and listened to him gladly.

Commentary

For sure Jesus was a good master. Being a master is something more than being a teacher. Teachers conduct their classes and then they are gone. The master, in its true sense, is one who teaches life. His words penetrate deeply and touch the very core of life. He possesses wisdom, like the ancient masters of the people who continued to be so, long after their disciples had left school. Today's Gospel tells that people willingly and gladly listened to Jesus. It's because Jesus spoke to the heart, encouraging people to be more concerned with the real problems of life. He spoke to them about God, about a Father and Mother God who lovingly cares for his sons and daughters.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Right to appeal is a statutory privilege—The right to appeal is not a natural right. It is a statutory privilege, and must be exercised only in the manner and in accordance with the provisions of the law. Rule 41 of the Rules of Civil Procedure provides that an appeal to the Court of Appeals from cases decided by the Regional Trial Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction shall be taken within 15 days from notice of the judgment or final order appealed from by filing a notice of appeal with the court which rendered such judgment or final order and serving a copy thereof upon the adverse party. Furthermore, within this same period, the appellant shall pay to the clerk of court which rendered the judgment or final order appealed from, the full amount of the appellate court docket and other lawful fees. The Court has consistently held that the payment of docket fees within the prescribed period is mandatory for the perfection of an appeal. Without such payment, the appellate court does not acquire jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action and the decision sought to be appealed from becomes final and executory. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Yambao v. Court of Appeals, G.R.No. 140894, November 27, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Tinga warns of violence

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

TAGUIG'S winning mayoral candidate Freddie Tinga yesterday appealed to the Commission on Elections to proclaim the town's elected officials as soon as possible to avert the outbreak of violence at the municipal hall which has been barricaded by hundreds of supporters of defeated Mayor Ricardo Papa.

"We're afraid that if the standoff will be allowed to continue, the high tension in Taguig might erupt into violence in the coming days," Tinga said in a news conference at the Intramuros Golf Club in Manila.

The proclamation of Tinga—who got 63,114 votes against Papa's 57,794 at the end of the canvassing on May 25—and other officials has been delayed by the barricading of the town hall by Papa's supporters.

Papa's lawyers questioned all of the 1,071 election returns in Taguig, including those from areas where Papa was leading. They also questioned the composition of the three-member municipal board of canvassers, prompting the Comelec to replace the board members five times.

Because of the tension in Taguig, Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo had ordered the transfer of the election returns to the Comelec main office where the hearings on the disputed election returns would be continued.

On Monday, the members of the Taguig board of canvassers, headed by Comelec lawyer Emilio Santos, tried to retrieve the election returns from the town hall but they were prevented by the barricades put up by Papa's supporters.

Tinga said that even as he spoke, his poll watchers and Papa's supporters were holding a vigil in front of the town hall. The two groups are encamped merely a few meters apart.

"The elections and counting are over but why there has been no proclamation yet," Tinga asked yesterday.

The Comelec has proclaimed the winning congressmen in the two legislative districts of Taguig.

He said a number of his supporters were hurt when hundreds of Papa's supporters stormed the town hall on Monday and blocked the members of the board of canvassers and Marines sent by the Comelec to retrieve election materials.

"There is no longer any legal issue here because Mayor Tinga clearly won the elections," said Tinga's lawyer Sixto Brillantes. "It seems the Comelec cannot enforce its own decision."

On Tuesday, Southern Police District Office Director Supt. Jose Gutierrez warned the supporters of Tinga and Papa to stop fighting or the police would deal with them "decisively."

Gutierrez said the barricades raised the tension in the coastal town's already explosive political atmosphere.

Gutierrez blamed the Comelec's failure to proclaim the winner on the lawyers of Papa and Tinga who lodged protests against each other.

Cop . . .

(From page 25)

Bacalla, 24, eldest son of the late Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Marciano Bacalla and a graduate of AMA Computer College, was abducted on May 3 by Surat, Garcia and Rodrigo Catungal, a doorman at Surat's restaurant.

NBI agents last week arrested Surat, 38, his wife Edna, both of Sampaloc, Manila; Catungal, 22; and Garcia, 22.

Charges of kidnapping with homicide and one count of illegal possession of firearms were filed against them before the Quezon City Trial Court.

NBI Special Actions Unit chief Edmund Arugay on Wednesday told reporters that Surat, Catungal and Garcia planned the kidnapping. They also planned to ask for a hefty ransom from his mother, Ofelia Bacalla.

On May 3, Surat invited the young Bacalla to his Cabaret Bar Restaurant, where he joined Surat, Garcia and Catungal in drinking until 1 a.m.

Surat offered to drive Bacalla home in the latter's Honda Civic since the young man was very drunk, the NBI said.

Arugay said that in Novaliches, Catungal and Garcia tied up Bacalla with a nylon rope and gagged him with a towel. When Bacalla tried to fight back, the three men beat him up until he died, the NBI said.

The men brought Bacalla's body to Barangay Rizal in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija where they buried him with the help of Surat's uncle Lino Pader

Malonzo: What's next, jaywalking?

By Christian V. Esguerra

WITH all the charges filed against him in connection with the May 14 elections, Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday wondered if he would be charged next with jaywalking or traffic violation to further delay his proclamation as winner of the mayoral race

"After all the charges against me, what's next? Jaywalking or traffic violation?" Malonzo said.

But he is facing yet another case filed against him by his fierce rival, Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio.

This time, the Asistio camp has sought Malonzo's disqualification for allegedly committing many election offenses.

Malonzo and his supporters were accused of having "masterminded and implemented the deliberate and fraudulent scheme" to delay the distribution of election materials in many polling precincts on May 14, the day of the elections.

The unruly distribution resulted in the delay and postponement of elections in many precincts in both districts of Caloocan.

But Malonzo shrugged off Asistio's latest move and described it as a desperate effort to derail his proclamation as the winner.

"They (the Asistios) are employing all legal strategies to prevent me from taking my position," Malonzo said.

Asistio had also filed contempt charges against him for declaring himself winner of the mayoral race even before the official proclamation by the Commission on Elections.

The Comelec has yet to decide on Asistio's motions and the petition to declare an election failure in Caloocan.

"They have exhausted plans A to J," Malonzo said. "So what's next? Plan K or the 'Kill Malonzo' plot?"

The final Comelec tally showed Malonzo winning over Asistio by a large margin.

Malonzo's running mates in the People Power Coalition ticket also appeared to have dominated the Caloocan election.

Poll officer denies role in fraud

By Agnes E. Donato

AN ANGONO, Rizal official yesterday denied she committed electoral fraud, claiming her signature that was found on public documents was a forgery.

Magdalena Calderon, head of Angono's civil registry office, is one of three Angono officials charged with tampering of election documents allegedly to favor incumbent Mayor Gerardo Calderon (no relation to the civil registrar), who won by about 1,800 votes.

Charged with Magdalena were Angono municipal election chair Rene Gaton, and education department district supervisor Nelia Paz

Magdalena said she could not have participated in a meeting of the town's election registration board when they approved the application of 2,460 new voters and 221 applications for transfer of voters since she was in a hospital at that time.

It was learned that Magdalena has cancer and she had a blood transfusion at the San Isidro Hospital when the board meeting supposedly took place.

In a joint complaint, the local Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and Lakas-NUCD claimed that local officials of the Commission on Elections conspired to make it appear that the election registration board approved the applications of new and transferring voters in a meeting on Jan. 10-12, without the presence and consent of the two opposition camps.

The complainants said the "illegal" approval of the applications resulted in Mayor Calderon's victory.

But in her affidavit which she filed with provincial state prosecutor Marcosa de la Cuesta yesterday, Magdalena maintained she never signed the minutes of the meeting.

She also expressed willingness to submit to the National Bureau of Investigation her specimen signature for examination and authentication.

Mayor Calderon described his losing opponents, Edgar Samson of the LDP and Allan Frayco of the Lakas-NUCD, as "sourgrapers" and dismissed their protests against his proclamation as mayor

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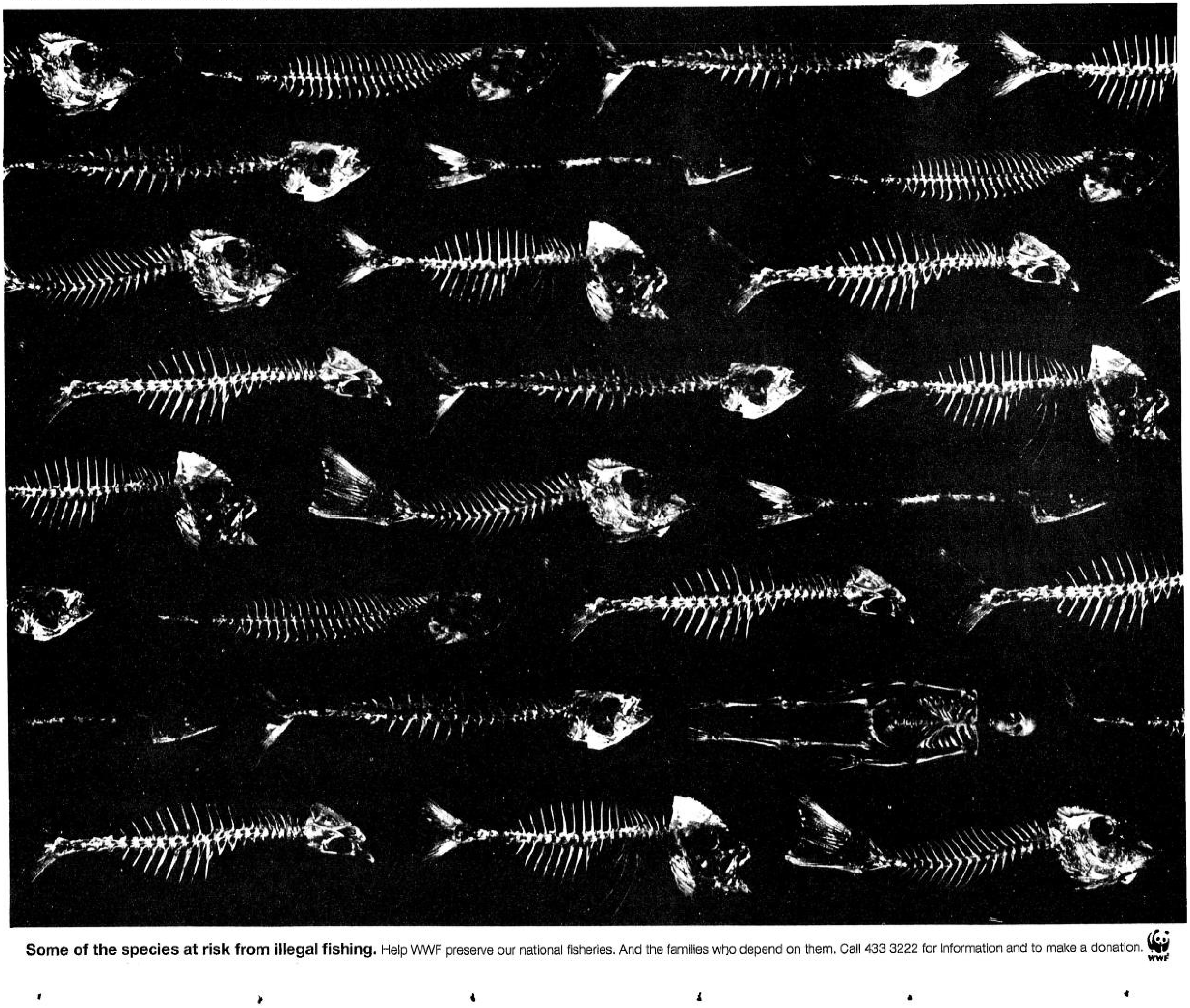

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Jealous seaman kills 2, hurts his girlfriend

By Christian V. Esguerra

A TRIGGER-HAPPY Nelson Triguerro yesterday went on a shooting rampage, killing two men and injuring his girlfriend in Malabon City.

Triguerro, 38, a seaman and a resident of Esguerra Street in Barangay Flores, Malabon, could not stand the sight of his girlfriend with another man so he shot both of them, police said.

Police said Benjamin de la Cruz, 44, of Gabriel Subdivision, Hulong Duhat, Malabon, died of gunshot wounds in the right shoulder and the left chest.

The suspect's girlfriend, Cecille Maglake, 23, a guest relations officer and resident of Caloocan City, was injured in the right thigh, police said.

The suspect also shot dead his drinking companion, Rommel Singian, 31, of Merville, Navotas, police said.

Triguerro and Singian were drinking at White Dove Videoke Bar on Don Basilio Street in Hulong Duhat when they saw De la Cruz and Maglake at a nearby table at 3:30 a.m., according to the report of PO2 Christopher Rodriguez and PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin.

Witnesses said Triguerro became jealous of the couple as Triguerro claimed Maglake was his girlfriend.

Triguerro left the bar, returned a few minutes later with a .45-caliber pistol and shot De la Cruz and Maglake, police said.

Singian, who tried to pacify Triguerro, was also shot in the back and the left chin, police said.

The suspect, who is facing multiple criminal charges before the Malabon City prosecutor's office, is still at large.

4 shabu merchants sentenced to life

FOUR MEN, two of them from Hong Kong, were yesterday given life sentences after a Makati City judge found them guilty beyond reasonable doubt of possessing and peddling illegal drugs or violation of Republic Act No. 6425 (The Dangerous Drug Act).

In his 33-page decision, Regional Trial Court Branch 66 Judge Ricardo Rosario also fined Sai Man Kwok, 40; Chi Sing Law, 38, both of Hong Kong; Daniel Cua, 35; and Paterno Sebastian P5 million each.

Rosario found the alibi presented by the Filipino defendants—that the arresting policemen only framed them —could not overturn the proof presented by government prosecutors.

Records showed that the two Chinese and their Filipino contacts were arrested on May 13, 2000 during a buy-bust operation in a Makati hotel.

Police seized from them 58.795 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and P2 million in marked money.

The shabu had a street value of P60 million, police said.

The records showed that the four men were arrested after a female police officer posed as a buyer and gave Cua P2 million for five kilos of shabu. She also demanded to meet the supplier. Police arrested the four during this meeting.

The convicts would be transferred to the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City to serve their sentence.

Nelson F. Flores

Housemaid falls for old trick

UNLIKE in the popular TV commercial of a telephone company which shows a housemaid using the phone's caller ID device, the housemaid of a businessman living in a condominium in San Juan was cheated by con men using the old "*dugo-dugo*" trick and caused her boss to lose almost $1,000.

Judelyn Camponer, who is working for Michael Dy, 57, of Midland I Condominium, Xavier Street in Greenhills, last week received an anonymous phone call, according to SPO1 Sonny Nacorda of the San Juan Police Criminal Investigation Division.

The woman caller reportedly claimed that Dy's 23-year-old daughter, Barbara, had a vehicular accident and was brought to a hospital in Caloocan City.

Camponer said the caller instructed her to get cash from the drawer where the Dys kept their money. Businessman Dy was on a business trip abroad, police said.

The housemaid, apparently scared and confused, took all the money she found in a drawer in Dy's room. She gave the money, which totaled US$983 to the unidentified woman who met her in Monumento, Caloocan City.

After getting the cash, the woman, whom Camponer described as in her mid-40s, told her to wait for a call about Barbara's condition. No call came, she said.

Dy later told San Juan police that he learned about the swindle only when he returned from abroad on Wednesday afternoon.

Agnes E. Donato

Alabang toll plaza off line for 4 days

FROM Sunday, June 10, to Wednesday, June 13, tollway operator Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) will be temporarily using a manual collection system at the Filinvest toll plaza in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

This was announced by PNCC tollways head Leonilo G. Javier who said the company's maintenance personnel would be upgrading the system in the Alabang toll plaza and preparing it for widening and additional booth installation.

Javier advised e-Pass users who will use the Filinvest toll plaza on the above dates to get toll cards upon entry, either from the Skyway System or the South Luzon Tollway, except at default plazas like Nichols, C-5 and Calamba where no cards are issued.

He also advised motorists to prepare the exact toll amount or use toll coupons for easier collection transactions.

The PNCC will deploy ambulant tellers to hasten transactions and avoid queuing, according to him.

2 hackers charged

By Alcuin Papa

TWO employees of a business school in San Juan, Metro Manila have been charged by the National Bureau of Investigation for violating the Electronic Commerce Acts for allegedly breaking into the school's computer system.

The suspects were Caesar R. Mañalac, former information technology head of Thames International Business School, and Leilani C. Garcia, a system coordinator of the same school.

The school is owned by Vivienne Tan, daughter of business magnate Lucio Tan, said investigators.

Both suspects are still at large, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Efren Meneses, chief of the NBI's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD), said Mañalac and Garcia illegally gained access into the school's computer and database systems and copied "sensitive programs" developed by the school.

Meneses said the two suspects were about to sell the programs to unsuspecting buyers.

The illegal activities of the suspects were discovered when they resigned from the school.

A search of the office cabinets of Mañalac and Garcia revealed that Mañalac had several documents that were not supposed to be in his possession, investigators said. These included the copyrighted materials, study guides and training manuals.

The NBI said the suspects were served a written notice by the school's human resources department asking them to explain. Mañalac and Garcia snubbed the memo, prompting the school owner to report the case to the NBI, investigators said.

They said Mañalac and Garcia had set up a company that was strikingly similar to Thames. Investigators also said the business plans of the two suspects contained marketing and accounting plates lifted from Thames' business plans.

Meneses said the only way these plans could be obtained was by accessing the school's main computer.

Mañalac, the NBI said, could have copied the files using the Thames network, which he did not have authority to use.

It was also found out that on 18 different instances between December 2000 and January 2001, someone using the phone line in Garcia's residence accessed the Thames e-mail account. The password to the account was known only to two people, investigators said.

The two suspects would be charged with 18 counts of violating RA No. 8792 with the Pasig City prosecutor's office.

AGAINST MILITARIZATION

Members of militant groups on Wednesday started their week-long demonstration outside Camp Aguinaldo. Organizers said they are protesting militarization in Southern Tagalog. VAL HANDUMON

Tight watch

SENIOR Supt. Jose Gutierrez, the head of the Southern Police District Office, ordered a tight watch on all banks and pawnshops in southern Metro Manila following a series of recent robberies.

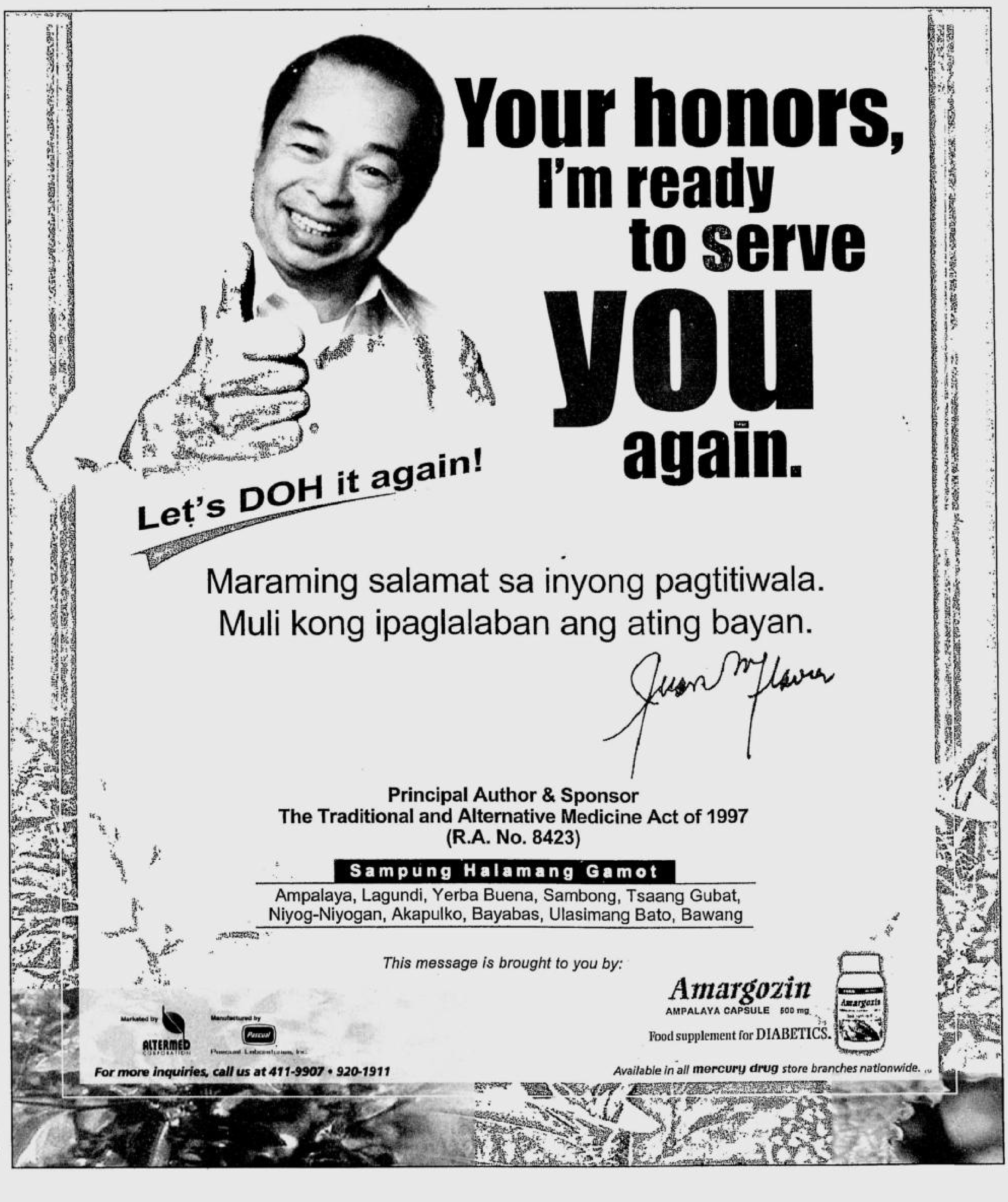
Gutierrez said he issued the order following intelligence reports that a number of robbery gangs have moved their operations to southern Metro Manila due to the "heat" in other parts of the metropolis.

He said that among the steps undertaken by the SPDO is the establishment of a close working relationship with the different local government units in southern Metro Manila, especially in the barangay level. Coordination with the security personnel of the different banks and pawnshops was also tightened, he said.

He said there are at least 260 banks and 400 pawnshops in southern Metro Manila alone. About 2,500 policemen under his office were instructed to watch these establishments very closely.

Gutierrez said his men are overworked due to their many assignments, but he added, "We are prepared and highly motivated in performing our tasks no matter what happens."

Southern Metro Manila is composed of the cities of Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Muntinlupa, and the towns of Pateros and Taguig. *Nelson F. Flores*



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Get intimate with Martin Onstage

MARTIN Nievera is featured in eight weekends of songs at Onstage, the newest concert venue at Greenbelt Makati.

The series starts tonight and runs on all Fridays and Saturdays of June. Showtime is 9 p.m.

SHOWS

Catch the man behind the hit revivals "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," "Kahit Isang Saglit," "The Promise" and "It Might Be You." Relive the memories of his songs and share his music, personal joys, unforgettable woes and experiences.

Martin Nievera Live Onstage features Martin's personal favorites and original hits that have long been kept in the memories of music enthusiasts.

The concert is a production of Big Mouth International Inc. for Maxi-Media International. Musical direction is by Louie Ocampo.

Tickets are now available at Ticketworld outlets (891-5610), major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Place Manila, Robinson's Galleria, Tower Records Ayala and Alabang and at the Onstage Ticketron.

Schools, foundations, civic groups and private organizations are invited to take part in this musical event through a special blockbuyer package. Interested parties may call Maxi-Media at 893-7737.

Bands at Suburbia

THERE'S a whole lot going down at Suburbia Malate this month. Expect full swing party nights with the biggest bands and a refreshingly different mix of music to suit your taste.

Start the week right with Manila's premier band Side A performing their original hits on Mondays.

Judith Banal and SOB takes the lead on Tuesdays with their powerful and stirring performance.

Prep up your mid-week schedule and check out Side A on Wednesdays, as the pop quintet takes centerstage again with R&B band Escape.

Ladies are in for a treat on Thursdays with Suburbia's free entrance promo, plus a chance to watch boy band 7th Soul perform.

ESCALANTE. At Crossroad

CHELO. Invades the malls

FREEVERSE keeps the weekend party crowd alive at Suburbia.

HUMAN Race dishes out medleys on weekends at Conway's Bar.

Weekends at Suburbia are even better as they keep the party rolling with Freeverse and First Circle on Fridays.

Saturdays are shared by Pido with Take One and Elements, whose music and energy will keep you dancing till dawn.

Suburbia is along M. Adriatico st., Malate. For inquiries, call 450-1685 or 86.

Mall tour

AFTER the successful launch of her debut album, "Nice To Meet You," new pop sensation Chelo invades the mall as she holds a mall tour: June 13 at SM Sucat, June 16 at SM Cebu, June 17 at Ayala Center Cebu with Donna Cruz and June 20 at SM City North Edsa.

Chelo's 10-track album was produced and recorded in the United States. It contains cuts like "Ganito Pala Kapag Umibig" (the carrier single), "The Drug," "Nice To Meet You," "Can We Be," "Stop," "He'll Find Me," "The Sun Going Down," "Without a Doubt," "When It Happens," plus a dance version of Sharon Cuneta's "Mr. DJ."

The album is distributed in the market by Ivory Records.

Entertainment at Conways

THE HITS just keep on coming at Conway's Bar of Makati Shangri-La.

Fine dining, good times and great entertainment are in store for bar habitues, as prime time acts deliver the best music—perfect for easy listening or dancing the night away.

Enjoy and unwind with Detour on Mondays as they charge up the scene with their infectious, upbeat sound.

Origin will surely keep you dancing on Tuesday nights with the latest chart-topping music, plus amusing Tina Turner impersonations from their lead vocalist Sesabeth.

Wednesdays are devoted to cool R&B music from ROB.

Rock and roll fanatics are in for a treat on Thursdays as Spirit of '67 relives the music of Elvis Presley, Haley and The Comets and Beachboys.

Fridays are even bigger and better with Big and Human Race performing back-to-back.

NIEVERA. Featured in eight weekends of music.

On Saturdays, Human Race faces the spotlight again as they dish out their especially arranged medleys from the '70s to the '90s.

Relax to the soothing acoustic sound of Marmalade on Sundays.

Call 813-8888 for reservations.

Bituin shines

SHE is the star who shown in the local production of Broadway musicals like "Rent" and "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Hers is also the voice which breathed life to the lilting song, "Paano Na," Arnold Reyes' second prize-winning entry in last year's Metropop Music Festival.

On Sundays, her soulful crooning stands out from among other talents in ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Asap."

The stellar presence of Bituin Escalante is here to stay. Aside from having successfully launched her debut album for Rock Records last year, Bituin has performed with top artists, musicians and bands.

She is in for another exciting tandem as she shares the stage with Side A band in "Side A in Tune . . . Forever," 8 tonight at Crossroad 77, Mother Ignacia st., Diliman, Quezon City.

The show also features promising all-male quintet, Quarter to 5.

The concert is presented by Smart Communications and Unison Productions.

For tickets, call 870-8920.

'Total Control'

VINA Morales is poised to claim her status as local pop diva as she goes on a mall tour, "Total Control," to promote her newly released album of the same title under OctoArts EMI Music.

The tour is presented by the recording company with SM Supermalls and Totally Cool Sckechers Sport. Sponsors include No Fear USA and Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water.

Watch Vina sizzle onstage with her fiery performance on June 10 at SM Pampanga, June 23 at SM Southmall, June 24 at Metropolis Alabang, July 1 at SM Sucat, July 21 at SM Fairview and July 22 at SM Bacoor.

Get a chance to win a free poster and have it autographed by Vina by purchasing a CD or cassette of "Total Control."

Also watch for Vina's new music video of "Pillow," carrier single of the album, to be aired June 18 to August 1 on MTV Philippines.

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HAYASHI

Tadao Hayashi harps on his love for the Philippines

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

JAPANESE instrumentalist Tadao Hayashi first strummed his way into the Philippine entertainment scene in 1980 with his signature tune, Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Wave," played on the harp.

Filipino music lovers so appreciated his kind of entertainment that Hayashi decided to stay in the country, where he has been a resident since 1985. Many people say he has become more popular here than he is in his native Japan, but Tadao himself is not complaining.

"I really like it here, Filipinos are very friendly," he says. "And I also love Tagalog songs, I like playing them."

He recalls that Bambi Fonacier of the Odyssey record bar and Octo Arts Philippines first got him to play in the Philippines.

"Mr. Fonacier heard 'Wave' when he went to Japan. I think they liked it so they invited me to come. I played at the Araneta Coliseum with Boy Katindig."

Hayashi was busy in a series of gigs from that time on, playing contemporary and Filipino tunes in hotels and clubs. He admits that in the past few years, he has not been playing as often as he used to because of the economic downturn.

He spent his spare time by giving private lessons on the harp. It is an expensive hobby, he says, considering that a basic harp, six feet high with 7 pedals and 47 strings, costs a cool P1 million. His own harp costs P1.2 million.

Hayashi actually studied the piano in a music conservatory in Japan for some years until he first saw a harp when he was 16. He immediately got

TADAO/ A31

Congressman Goma turns serious in TV series

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

RICHARD Gomez will have to be addressed, even if begrudgingly, as "Your Honor" when he occupies a seat in the lower house of Congress as representative of the Mamamayang Ayaw sa Droga party-list group. He will be addressed the same way in his forthcoming weekly show on ABS-CBN, also called "Your Honor," where Goma plays a legal counsel.

"Your Honor" was inspired by the US series "The Practice," which stars **Dylan McDermott**.

Goma has been seen in TV sitcoms for more than a decade now. He started in "Palibhasa Lalake" and then starred with his wife, **Lucy Torres** in "Richard Loves Lucy." The second sitcom had to fold up early this year, when Goma started campaigning for the May 14 elections.

Richard is appearing in "Your Honor" minus his wife.

"It's a courtroom drama and Lucy is not really for this kind of stuff," he says. "She was convinced to do 'Richard Loves Lucy' only because she would play her real-life role as my wife. That was easy for her. But to make her play a character, that's not her cup of tea. She always says she is not an actress. She's happy taking care of me and **Julianna**."

In "Your Honor," Richard stars with **Eric Quizon, Tony Mabesa, Chinggoy Alonso** and **Lisa Lorena**, with a host of young talents. **Joel Lamangan** directs.

"This will help ordinary viewers understand that the law is indeed a force of good and that it knows no master," says *Direk* Joel.

"Each episode will take viewers to a higher level of appreciation of the law, give them a deeper understanding of what freedom, justice and honor are all about."

From PR to photography

WE chatted recently with former public relations practitioner **Dominique James**, who gave up PR work five years ago to concentrate on photography.

Dominique confesses he was inspired by the likes of **Jun de Leon, Wyg Tysman, Neil Oshima** and **Pancho Escaler**.

"I had the wonderful chance of getting to know them and getting to work with them," Dominique shares. "I was so engrossed when they talk about photography and I could feel their passion."

Dominique acquired a penchant for photography back in high school, although he wasn't seriously considering a photography career at that time.

"My teacher, **Shirley Mercado**, taught me photography as part of the curriculum," he says. "I never really planned to become a photographer. I wanted to become a writer so after college, I wrote for magazines and did cover stories. But I felt I wasn't fulfilled in a creative way. It's like finding a niche.

JAMES. Builds a career out of photography

"Then I saw the works of Pancho and I realized they can also be a life's work and you can really build a career out of photography. That was when I made a decision to go into photography. I totally get absorbed in the creation of a photo. I told myself this is what I'll end up doing for the rest of my life."

Dominique credits his mentors for what he has achieved in his chosen profession.

"The things that others should have learned by going to school, I learned for free while working with my mentors," he says. "They're the masters of photography and I'm so privileged to train with them.

Even if he had learned from the veterans, Dominique continued to improve his craft. He read books on photography, surfed the Internet and relied on reference materials.

"I thought it would be easy for me to get good jobs right away," Dominique says. "Even if I know designers, models and clients, they tended to be wary. I realized you don't just knock on their doors just because you're doing something else and they can give you the job. They wanted to see if you're really experienced."

During his first few years, Dominique says he got clients whom he didn't really know.

"They were confident enough to give me the chance and the good accounts. Along the way, I was able to build a good client base prior to the time I was doing PR. I believe there's a job for everybody. I was able to build a set of clients outside the usual industry client groups."

To date, Dominique has serviced both local and international clients. He did the Benneton worldwide campaign and the Asian blitz for Mercedes Benz. He has done editorial work for Swatch, merchandising and promotions work for Star Wars, Sesame Street and Barbie, food postcards for Ilustrado Restaurant and photos for the Bayanihan Dance Company.

He has worked with celebrities, too, and has done the nude photos of **Isabel Granada, Carlos Agassi, Wilma Doesnt** and **Giselle Toengi**.

He enjoyed photographing the likes of **Vina Morales, Albert Martinez, Boy Abunda** and **Kuh Ledesma** whom he says, is a "good friend."

He has had exhibits in galleries, museums and even on the Internet.

So, is photography a lucrative job?

"It becomes only lucrative if it pays you in two ways," Dominique says. "One in terms of satisfaction of doing a good job and enjoying the work. Second, when your clients can see that you're putting your job, soul and intellect into creating the images and photos. That's the most important lesson I learned from the photographers I worked with. It's not just the job, it's the passion."

GOMEZ. Tries courtroom drama for a change

The economics graduate from San Beda College says he still applies what he learned in school now that he runs his own business, Dominique James Photo Studio.

He also teaches photography at John Robert Powers and holds occasional lectures and photo shoots.

Singapore rejects lifting of ban on Janet Jackson's sexy album

SINGAPORE—Strait-laced Singapore is standing firm on its ban on pop star Janet Jackson's latest album, "All for You," tossing out an appeal to release the album with its sexually explicit ballad, "Would You Mind."

The steamy lyrics of the song were deemed by the Publications Appeal Committee, made up of academics and professionals, to be "not acceptable to our society."

Jackson's label EMI had filed the appeal after the Films and Publications Department said last month the record had been outlawed because of its "sexually explicit lyrics."

In the song, Jackson says: "I just wanna touch you, tease you, lick you, please you, love you, make love to you."

EMI said it was now trying to persuade the singer's management to delete the offending track from the album for sales in Singapore.

But, although the record cannot be bought in Singapore, Jackson fans can still access and download "Would You Mind" from the Internet.

Strictly-regulated Singapore takes a hardline on pornography, banning magazines showing even partial nudity, blocking many Internet sites considered obscene and censoring graphic scenes in movies.

An episode of the popular TV show "Ally McBeal" was dropped last year because it showed the main character Ally, played by Calista Flockhart, and her colleague Ling, played by Lucy Liu, kissing each other on the lips.

All controversial records "such as those promoting violence or drug abuse, containing explicit sexual lyrics or sensitive racial and religious remarks," must be reviewed, a Film and Publications Department spokesperson said.

Of about 300,000 titles imported last year, 21 were rejected, she said.

This year, Limp Bizkit's Chocolate Starfish and The Hot Dog Flavoured Water have been disallowed "for excessive bad language."

BTNHRessurection by Bone Thungs-N-Harmony and Skulls and Bones by Cyprus Hill have also been disallowed due to execessive foul language, drug promotion and sexual lyrics

In 1997, Jackson's last album "The Velvet Rope" was banned in the conservative city-state because three of the 20 tracks dealt with homosexuality and other issues considered by authorities to be offensive.

It was later released after the offending tracks were removed.

Next month, Jackson starts her "All for You" world tour but Singapore has not been included in the itinerary. *AFP*

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12	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	PILA BALDE
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LABRADOR
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT- AWAY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
2	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
9	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT- AWAY
10	ULTRA SURROUND	LABRADOR

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT- AWAY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE POSSESSED
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
6	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CUT- AWAY
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

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1	PEARL HARBOR	
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS	
3	PEARL HARBOR	
4	ANTS IN THE PANTS	

GLORIETTA 4 (All Digital Sound)

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	PEARL HARBOR	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PEARL HARBOR THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ANGEL EYES	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PEARL HARBOR	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	PEARL HARBOR	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	PEARL HARBOR	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PEARL HARBOR	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 8-9 9PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	PEARL HARBOR THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PEARL HARBOR	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ANGEL EYES	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	PEARL HARBOR	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	PEARL HARBOR
2 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ANTS IN THE PANTS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8 ([illegible])	ANGEL EYES
9 ([illegible])	THE POSSESSED
10 ([illegible])	TRAFFIC

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RUGRATS
2	LUCKY NUMBER
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
3	ANGEL EYES

Masagana CINEMA 2000 (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	LABRADOR
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	ALAS DOSE

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	LABRADOR
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
5	ANTS IN THE PANTS

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543 4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	ALAS DOSE
4	BATANG MAGDALENA
5	CARTA ALAS
6	PEARL HARBOR
7	LABRADOR
8	THE MUMMY RETURNS

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1 .	PEARL HARBOR

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC tel 930.9515

1	
2	AMBISYOSA
3	PEARL HARBOR

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	AMBISYOSA
A	PEARL HARBOR

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	AMBISTOSA
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ALAS DOSE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	ALAS DOSE
6	LABRADOR
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
9 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	LABRADOR

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ALAS DOSE
2	LABRADOR
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
5	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ANTS IN THE PANTS
3	ALAS DOSE
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
6	LABRADOR
7 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8	CARTA ALAS

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	LABRADOR
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ALAS DOSE
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PEARL HARBOR

Sampaquita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LABRADOR

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	LABRADOR

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533 3856

1	LABRADOR
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	RESERVE
4	ALAS DOSE

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	ALAS DOSE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
2	LABRADOR
3	ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	ALAS DOSE
5	THE MUMMY RETURNS

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	LABRADOR
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	AMBISYOSA
4	RESERVE
5	CARTA ALAS
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	LABRADOR
2	ALAS DOSE
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ALAS DOSE
2 (DTS)	KAMASUTRA
3 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
2	AMBISYOSA
3	ALAS DOSE
4 (DTS)	CARTA ALAS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMT RETURNS
4	KAMASUTRA
5	CUT AWAY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	KAMASUTRA

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	KAMASUTRA

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	VALENTINE
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
2 (DTS)	ALAS DOSE

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PEARL HARBOR

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALAS DOSE
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	KAMASUTRA
2	CARTA ALAS
3	ALAS DOSE
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Berma tel 879.2168

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	LABRADOR

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	LABRADOR
3	ALAS DOSE
4	PEARL HARBOR

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PEARL HARBOR
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	ALAS DOSE
4 (DTS EX)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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❸ ANGEL EYES
❹ PEARL HARBOR
❺ ANTS IN THE PANTS
❻ PEARL HARBOR
❼ THE MUMMY RETURNS

GALLERIA

1 OPENS JUNE 13, 2001
2 PEARL HARBOR
3 PEARL HARBOR
4 PEARL HARBOR
5 OPENS JUNE 8, 2001
6 OPENS JUNE 8, 2001
7 OPENS JUNE 13, 2001
8 OPENS JUNE 13, 2001
9 OPENS JUNE 13, 2001
10 OPENS JUNE 13, 2001

IMUS (046)875-3838

❶ PEARL HARBOR
❷ PEARL HARBOR
❸ ANTS IN THE PANTS
❹ THE MUMMY RETURNS
❺ PEARL HARBOR
❻ SEX APPEAL

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❷ 15 MINUTES
❸ SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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❻ ALAS DOSE

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ALAS DOSE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LABRADOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ANTS IN THE PANTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BABAENG PUTIK / MALENA
ODEON	PEARL HARBOR
ODEON-2	ALAS DOSE
ROBEN	CARTA ALAS
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	LOST / HARD BULLET
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	SA IYONG HAPLOS / EXIT WOUNDS
QUEZON-1	PEARL HARBOR
REMAR	PEARL HARBOR
REMAR-2	ALAS DOSE
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-2	SPY KIDS - (JUNE 6-7) FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL (JUNE 8-18)
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-2	CARTA ALAS
CINEMA-3	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	LABRADOR
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-8	CUT AWAY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-12	ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-14	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-15	ALAS DOSE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-2	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-3	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-4	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-6	PEARL HARBOR
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	BAIT
CINEMA-2	KATAWAN
CINEMA-4	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-2	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
CINEMA-4	WANTED G.R.O.

Mutya finals night

MUTYA ng Pilipinas 2001 holds its grand coronation night this Saturday, June 9, at the NBC Tent at The Fort. It will be aired at 9 p.m. on GMA 7.

The pageant night promises to be a feast for the senses. With noted MTV director Louie Ignacio at the helm, the show will have the distinctive MTV flavor, with music, fast moves and explosive visuals.

MTV VJ Donita Rose hosts the event with Dingdong Dantes and Hans Montenegro. Featured performers are the Eraserheads, Mulatto, Pido with Take One.

Apart from the swimsuit competition, the evening gown parade also promises to be another highlight, showcasing the creation of Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP) members Renee Salud, Johnny Abad, Manuel Bondad, Gino Fernando and Richard Papa.

The pageant will see 25 candidates from Olongapo, Iloilo, Cebu, Bacolod, Batangas, Kalinga Apayao, Taguig and Metro Manila competing for the coveted title, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia Pacific.

Other titles at stake are Queen of Clubs, Miss Intercontinental, Queen of the Year and Miss Tourism International.

The beauty tilt is presented by Lux Super-Rich Shampoo, Close-Up, Cream Silk Conditioner and Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Cream.

Major sponsors include Avon Color, Agfa HBC Plus Film and Mossimo.

Official residence of the candidates is Sulò Hotel.

Thrilling episode

IN THIS week's thrilling episode of "Nikki," the lead star is surprised to learn that Marion is still good friends with Dwight's ex-girlfriend.

After Dwight expresses how difficult it is for his loyalty to be divided between Nikki and Marion, Nikki decides to be the better person and host a surprise birthday party for Marion.

On Marion's special day, Nikki is the one who is surprised when Marion brings Dwight's ex-girlfriend, Cheryl (Arden Myrin), with whom Marion has remained good friends.

"Nikki" airs 8:30 to 9 tonight on RPN 9.

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Kate Beckinsale
Cuba Gooding Jr.
Alec Baldwin
William Lee Scott
Jon Voight

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8:00 PM - Pearl Harbor
11:30 PM - Pearl Harbor

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOST of the foreign movies we get to see in the Philippines come from Hollywood. We enjoy some of them, but we long to sample films from other parts of the world. There is film life after Hollywood, right? There'd better be!

Of course, other countries make movies (India leads the world with over 700 productions a year—and, would you believe?, the Philippines used to be number four or five with an annual output of 130 films).

But the movie distribution set-up here is such that the major American studios have the run of the place, screening over 200 films a year, as opposed to maybe 30 from other countries (and that already includes the cheapies and quickies of the sex and martial arts varieties.

You can blame that on our "100 years of Hollywood" that began with the American colonization of the Philippines. Since those early years, US movies have always been with us, like other staple American imports.

So, if you want to see a non-American movie in our theaters, you'll have to go to the few "preview" art houses we have—or watch the movie channels on cable TV.

That really is too bad because other countries' movies can teach us a lot about different modes of storytelling and communication in terms of film, not to mention various cultures, traditions, lifestyles, ways of thinking and seeing the world, etc.

For instance, Iranian films have impressed audiences and even movie people worldwide with their spare but felt exploration of universal themes, as particularized by their home-grown stories and characters.

In fact, some Filipino directors who have seen Iranian movies in festivals abroad have been inspired to come up with their own simple but insightful productions, in the hope that they will also be embraced by the global film community.

Speaking of Iranian films, a new one is "The Day I Became A Woman." No, it doesn't tell a story about sex change, it dramatizes Iranian women's gradual empowerment through three generations. The film is directed by **Marjieh Meshkini**.

From France, there's **Patrice Leconte**'s period drama, "The Widow of St. Pierre," starring **Juliette Binoche** and **Daniel Autevil**. The film explores the issues of capital punishment and a pure and deathless love.

From Australia, "The Dish" casts **Sam Neill** as a widower who mans a relay station in an obscure New South Wales village that helps track the Apollo space mission in 1969. The comedy film has been praised for its effective juxtaposition of a big news event and the little people who help make it happen.

From Sweden, **Liv Ullmann**'s "Faithless" (script by **Ingmar Bergman**, no less) is a searing look at adultery. A willful actress destroys the loving haven of her marriage by launching into an affair with a grood friend of the couple.

From Hong Kong, **Won Kar-ai**'s "In the Mood for Love" has **Maggie Cheung** and **Tony Leung** playing neighbors whose relationship intensifies when they discover that their spouses are having an affair.

When will we get to see these and other movies from filmmaking countries other than the United States?

TV treats

SATURDAY, June 9 at 3 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Parasites: The Body Snatchers" takes viewers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, to researchers checking out the parasite-infected gills of sharks in the North Atlantis.

At 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Wild Dog Wilderness" focuses on the endangered wild dogs in Kruger National Park, African wild dogs, and the rabies-infested wild canine population of Kenya.

On Sunday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. on Channel V Int'l., VJ **Asha** interviews **Shaggy**, who's back in the limelight with his "Hotshot" album.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Stigmata" stars **Patricia Arquette** and **David Byrne**.

On Monday, June 11 at 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Year of the Flamebirds" is on the frenzied breeding season for flamigos in the harsh climate of Botswana.

Tadao . . .

(From page A28)

hooked on the harp.

"I told myself that I would get to play the harp someday. I was attracted to it because the piano is so common."

He first played classical tunes on the harp just like the other conservatory students but he got bored. He decided to use the very classical instrument to play popular music.

"I did not like classical music where you have to stick to the notes. I like playing music my own way, that is why I switched."

He started playing professionally when he was 21 and toured night spots in Japan until he came to Manila in 1980. He shuttled between Japan and the Philippines for five years until he decided to stay in the Philippines permanently in 1985.

He has picked up the Filipino language.

Tadao Hayashi plays Broadway hits such as "On My Own" from Les Miserables and the theme from the "Phantom of the Opera" and local tunes such as "Sana'y Wala ng Wakas" and "Ngayon at Kailanman," at the Ciao Bar-Ristorante of the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City until July 3, Monday to Friday.

The performance is part of Dusit Hotel's "Harping on Lunch" promo where guests can enjoy the music of Tadao Hayashi with their executive set lunches.

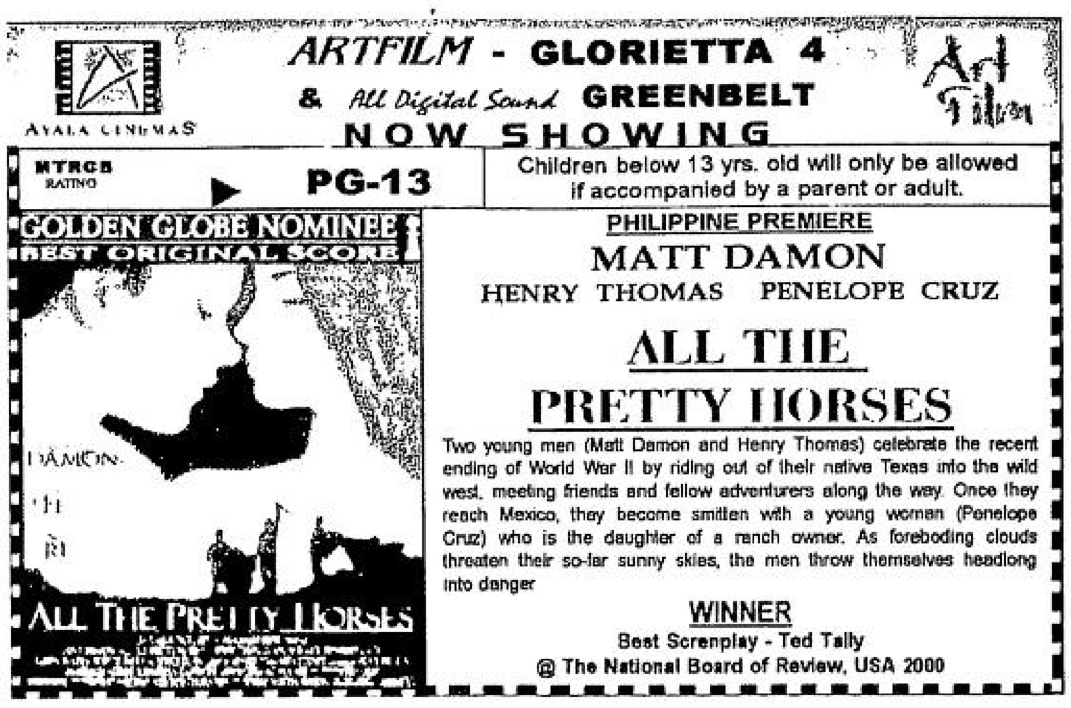
DIWATA

NEW SINGLE

Diwata launches her second single, "Ikaw at Ako sa Habang Panahon," from her debut album of the same title under Asiatec Music Productions. The song is an adaptation of an oldie hit, "You Mean Everything To Me." The album is distributed by Concorde Records.

NEW FRENCH MOVIES

"Taxi" by Gerard Pires, is among the movies to be shown for free in the 6th French Film Festival, jointly sponsored by the French Embassy and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. The filmfest opens today at the mall's Cinema 2 and runs until June 18. Also featured are contemporary films shown in Parisian theaters last year. Opening film is Agnes Jaoui's dramatic comedy, "Let Gout Des Autres (It Takes All Kinds)," which tells the story of tastes and colors of different characters and their milieu. The by-invitation only screening will be graced by French Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui. Comedy and drama films are also in the lineup. Screening hours are 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. For inquiries, call 635-2079.



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BEST ORIGINAL SCORE
ALL THE PRETTY HORSES
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
MATT DAMON
HENRY THOMAS PENELOPE CRUZ
ALL THE PRETTY HORSES
Two young men (Matt Damon and Henry Thomas) celebrate the recent ending of World War II by riding out of their native Texas into the wild west, meeting friends and fellow adventurers along the way. Once they reach Mexico, they become smitten with a young woman (Penelope Cruz) who is the daughter of a ranch owner. As foreboding clouds threaten their so-far sunny skies, the men throw themselves headlong into danger
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Best Screnplay - Ted Tally
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PEARL HARBOR - P 13
12:20, 3:50, 7:20, 10:50
PEARL HARBOR - P 13
11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30
MUMMY RETURNS - P 13
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
PEARL HARBOR - P 13
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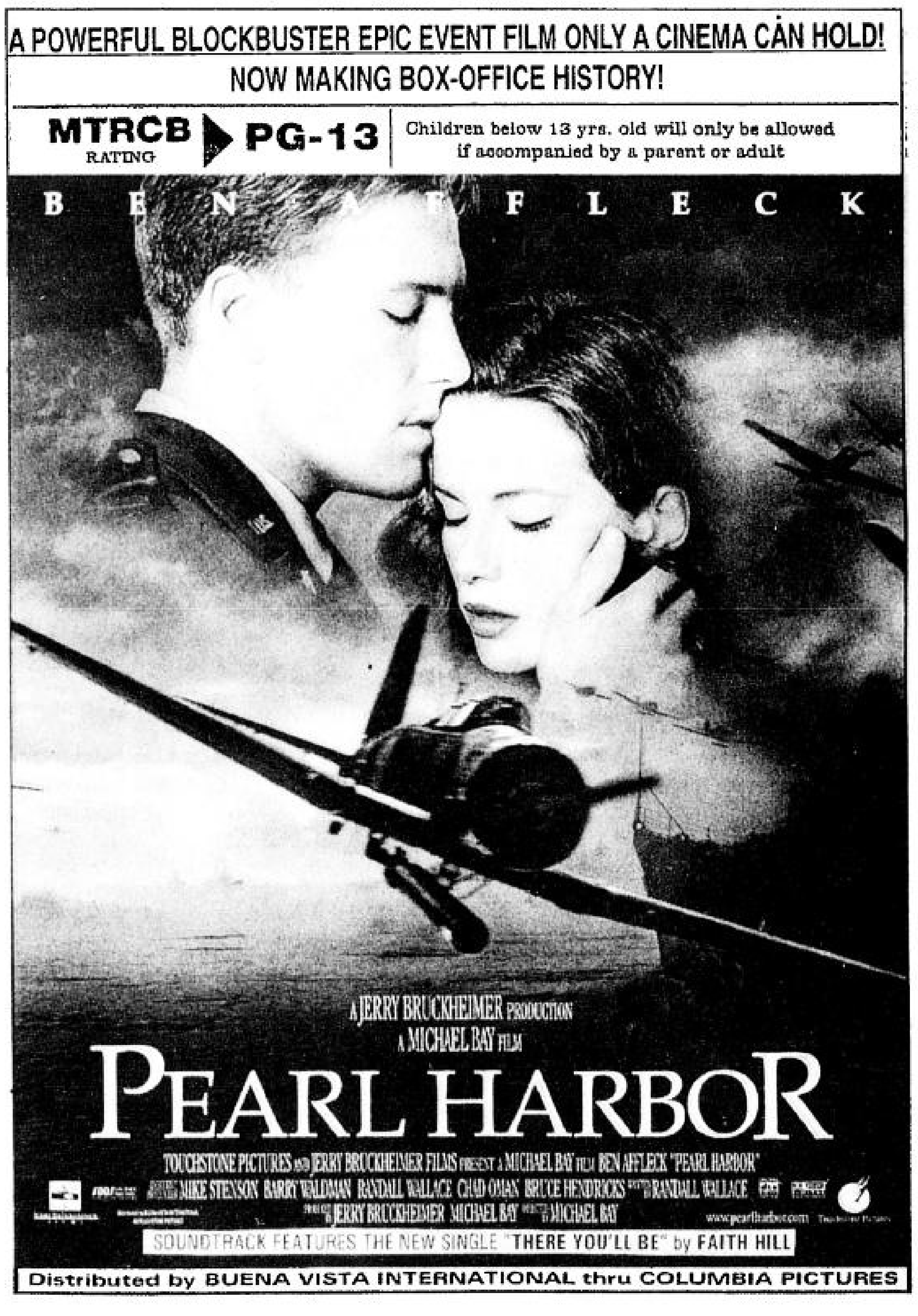

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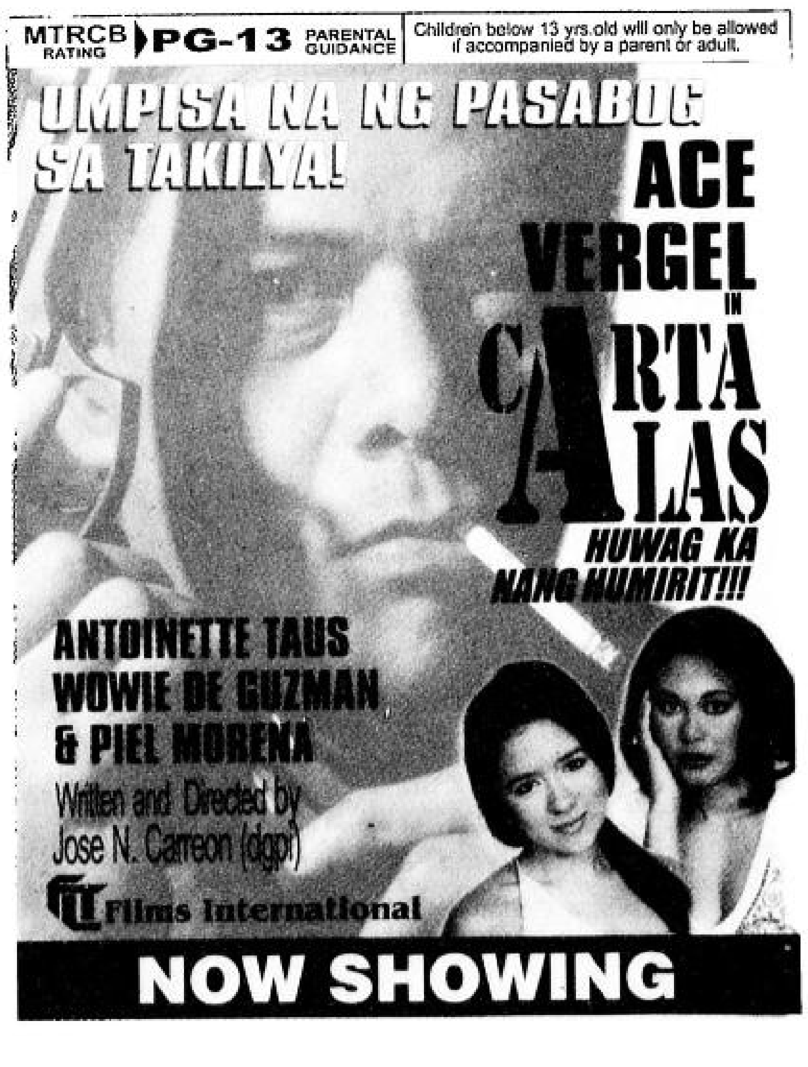

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ACE VERGEL IN CARTA ALAS
HUWAG KA NANG HUMIRIT!!!
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

My favorite things

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'VE been taping non-stop, going all over in preparation for "Kris and Tell," the program's launch.

I've been getting much less than my desired 9-10 hours of sleep each night. In fact, last Sunday while hosting "The Buzz," it was sheer adrenaline that kept me going since I had packed up my studio spiels taping at 6:30 a.m.

It took forever because our set, which I have to say is the most massive and ambitious of any of our local talk shows, was pieced together, literally bit by bit. Our stairs came in from Taytay, Rizal, and arrived at 10 p.m. It was nearly 3 a.m. when it was finally welded into place.

Sheer exhaustion and a bad case of opening-week jitters can really stretch my nerves to the breaking point. I read recently that during high-stress situations it's very healthy to write down a list of what gives you joy. These can be people, events, experiences, or things of which just the memory of can make you break into a spontaneous smile.

Here's part of my list:

1. **Rajo Laurel**'s chocolate birthday cake, baked by his shop's cook. It is so moist and delicious. The frosting is so creamy and smooth, the cake velvety yet firm. Rajo is amazed that I haven't stopped raving about it and I even want to market the chocolate cake and set up a bakery for his cook.

2. Buying my monthly supply of magazines on fashion, entertainment, lifestyle and pop culture from Mag Net in Mega Mall. There's nothing like having three bags brimming with at least 20 fresh magazines, still encased in their individual plastic bags. I ration them, allowing myself to read only a maximum of two a night. All my friends know that I'm quite anal about my desire to be the first to read the magazine cover to cover. Selfish as it may seem, I only share my magazine after I've read it thoroughly.

3. Leaving the candle room at the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran and seeing all the candles I have lighted, as well as those of my prayer buddies, burning brightly. This may seem weirdly superstitious, but when I see that the candles all remain lit, I'm convinced that my prayer intention has reached God and Mama Mary will make Him *kulit* to make sure that He grants my petitions. If you haven't been to Baclaran recently, then you haven't seen the beautiful mosaic of Mary and the Infant Jesus which was donated by a Mexican family.

4. Waking up to a cup of UCC 3-in-1 coffee. This is the best instant coffee blend I've ever tried. The flavor is simply delicious, sweet and creamy without losing out on the rich coffee flavor. I like my coffee milky, so I steal some of **Josh**'s Anchor fresh milk and pour it into my cup. This Japanese coffee concoction is so satisfying it makes early mornings almost something to look forward to.

5. Hearing Josh's soft snores, sometimes loud if he's been swimming the whole afternoon, in the middle of the night. I like the room to be super cold and very dark (no night-lights for us), and we like to snuggle under a comforter, and just hearing the hum of the aircon and the soft melody of his snoring in the middle of the darkness is such a secure, homey feeling.

6. Looking at your cell phone or land line's caller ID and seeing it's a number or name you recognize, and a person you've really been wanting to hear from. I appreciate text messages, but there's nothing like hearing another person's voice, not just reading his words. It's funny, but I'm not one who'll play coy—I know it isn't cool—and I always answer within the first three rings.

7. People we meet for the first time, mostly women of all ages, of course, who after seeing Josh keep saying how cute and/or handsome he is. Nothing beats the feeling of other people acknowledging how goodlooking your kid is. Especially since our culture is so obsessed with good looks, I'm ecstatic that as far as Josh is concerned, he truly lucked out in the draw. When he's fast asleep, I can stare at him endlessly, memorizing his features and marveling at their perfection.

8) Getting out of the shower and having a freshly laundered, fluffy and fragrant towel waiting for me. I always sniff my towel before drying myself off, and that clean smell lingers.

9) A big brown paper bag of piping hot *balut* (duck's eggs) from the mom of Monsignor **Soc Villegas**. Josh and I love *balut*. My son eats it whole, *sisiw* and all. I just like the yellow part and, of course, the soup. The *balut* Nanay Villegas sends us is always the freshest. There's so much of the soup and the yellow part is so plentiful and still soft, which means it's really a new batch. My mom had mentioned to her how much Josh and I enjoyed it, and she's kept us regularly supplied.

We all have different comfort foods. When I'm really running low on energy, I indulge in *sinangag* and crispy *tuyo* that comes all the way from Cebu. The *tuyo* from Cebu is larger, meatier and not as salty as the ones available locally. Some people can't stand the smell of *tuyo* frying and the smell of garlic frying, but I love them. The whole kitchen, practically the entire house, is enveloped in the cooking aroma and it just makes the house feel like such a real, everyday home.

10) Listening to the waves, and staring out at the ocean in Boracay. The water is an unbelievable crystal aquamarine shade. The sun reflecting on it makes the whole setting such a perfect slice of Nature. The sand is never scorching on your feet, everything just seems so pure, and there's a calming, reassuring atmosphere all around you. I never was a beach person until I fell in love with it because I saw it through Josh's eyes, and appreciated it thorougly because of all the joy being there gave him.

Once in the water, you never want to get out. The waves are gentle, the little fish of all shapes and colors swim all around you. The water's depth just gently deepens, you never fear getting in over your head.

Sony probe to identify culprit behind nonexistent critic

LOS ANGELES—The revelation that Sony Pictures promoted several movies with accolades from a critic who didn't exist raises the question: Why would the studio even bother?

"That's the question we've got, too," Sony spokesperson Susan Tick said Monday, adding that an investigation was under way into who generated quotes from the phony "David Manning of The Ridgefield Press."

Some of the movies involved had already gotten legitimate positive reviews. Besides, studio publicists can often come up with someone to praise almost any movie, no matter how terrible.

In advertisements for the Rob Schneider farce "The Animal," the fictional Manning said: "The producing team of 'Big Daddy' has delivered another winner!'"

The photo in the ad parodies the Adam Sandler "Big Daddy" poster, featuring Schneider and a monkey facing a brick wall.

Both films were Sony movies, and one benefit of the fake quote is that it allows Sony to link "The Animal" to the successful "Big Daddy" and to try to hook the same audience.

In another ad, Manning declared Heath Ledger of the action-comedy "A Knight's Tale" as "this year's hottest new star!"

The quote itself is puzzling, considering Ledger was a new star in 1999.

The phony blurbs were spotted last week by a Newsweek reporter who challenged the reviewer's authenticity.

Major critics such as Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times and Peter Travers of Rolling Stone had lauded "A Knight's Tale," and Stephen Holden of The New York Times characterized Schneider's work in "The Animal" as "ingenious."

"It's very mystifying. There really wasn't a need to create quotes for these movies," said Marla Matzer Rose, the marketing writer for the entertainment trade newspaper The Hollywood Reporter.

The person who fabricated the Manning quotes may not have realized how serious the backlash would be, she added. "It might have been a game to that person."

Tony Silver, who produces movie commercials with the company Big Screen Ideas, said it no longer matters who praises a movie in an advertisement, as long as someone does.

"The absence of such quotes is more meaningful than their presence, at this point," Silver said. "Praise is so ubiquitous that you almost have to get someone to say something good about the movie. It's like any form of inflation."

Most potential viewers don't read the name of the critic being quoted, said Matzer Rose. "The only thing that matters, to people who pay attention to these things, is that it's some sort of endorsement, some sort of third party saying, "This is a good movie,'" she said.

When well-known critics and press outlets don't praise a movie, studios often look to lesser-knowns. Some little-known reviewers quoted in movie advertisements may have received free travel, expenses and hotel rooms during interview junkets, courtesy of movie studios.

And then there are movie fans writing on the Internet.

Berge Garabedian, a fan who runs the Joblo Movie Emporium website, said studios sometimes look to armchair critics like him if they are desperate for a quote.

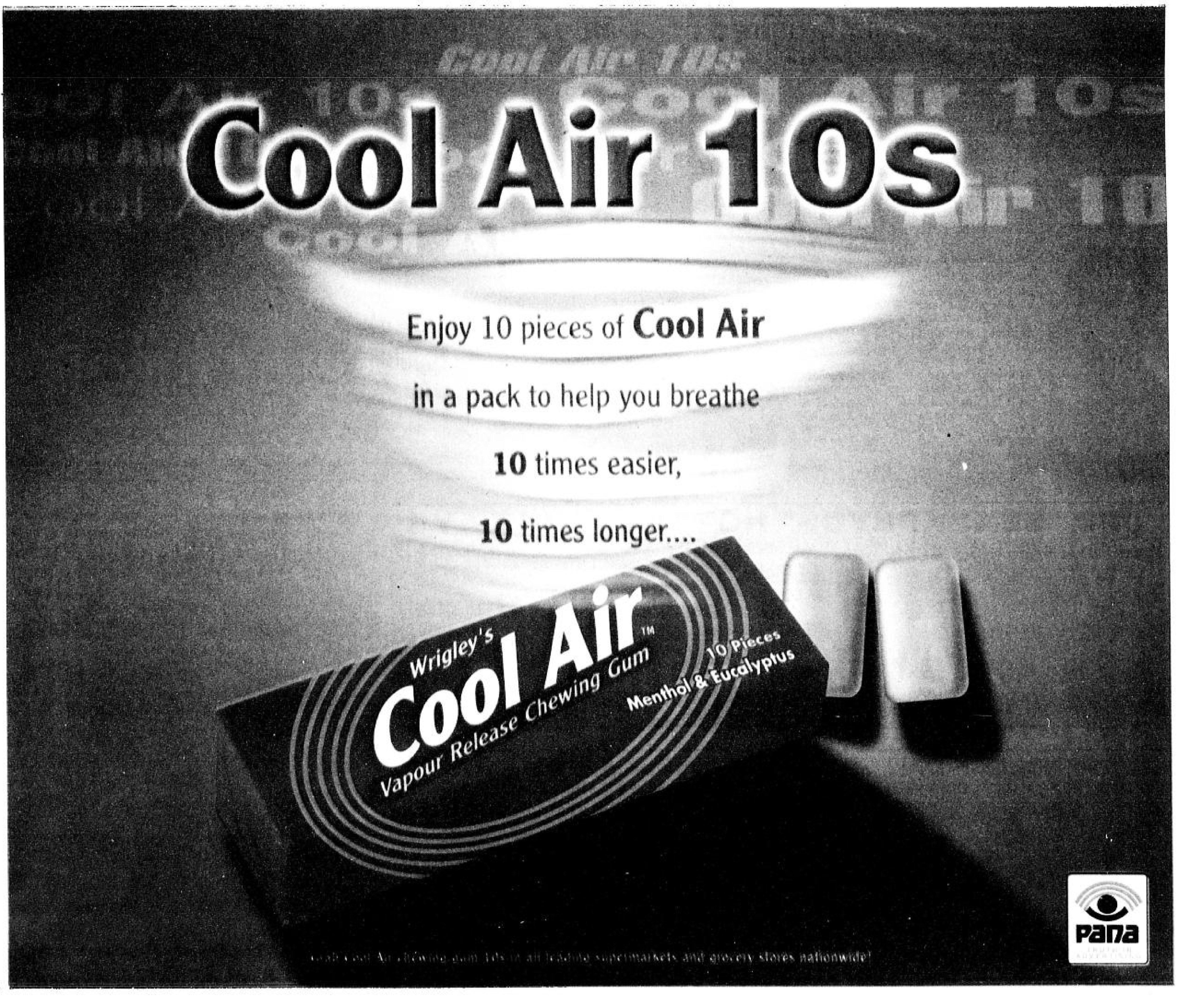
"There are always going to be people who like certain movies, end of story," he said in an e-mail. "Why Sony felt the need to 'make up' this critic is beyond me . . ."

Tick, the Sony spokesperson, characterized the use of a fake critic as "a case of incredibly bad judgment" and insisted that studio officials did not know Manning was a fraud.

Manning quotes also appeared in ads for the Sony movies "Hollow Man" and "Vertical Limit" last year.

At The Ridgefield Press, a small weekly newspaper in Connecticut, officials said they didn't realize the paper's name had appeared in the ads.

"There has never been a David Manning who works for us," Marty Hersam, managing partner of the newspaper, said Monday. "We're as surprised as anybody." ***AP***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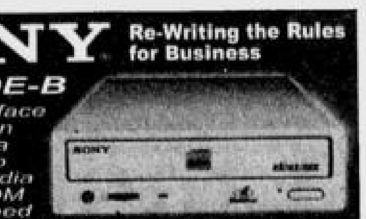

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1
BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▣ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Bangko Sentral keeps rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral left key overnight interest rates unchanged yesterday, saying that it would prefer to wait for more economic data before taking any action.

"The board's decision was guided mainly by the belief that while on balance there is scope for further monetary easing, the more prudent course of action at the present time would be to wait for further information relevant to the inflation outlook, such as the trend in energy prices, the level of liquidity indices, and interest rate differentials," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a statement.

"The last (interest rate differentials) would depend on the outcome of the next US Fed meeting scheduled on June 26, when the Fed revisits its monetary policy stance."

The central bank chief noted, however, that the Bangko Sentral still intends to bring down rates in the near future, possibly to as low as 8.25 percent for overnight borrowing.

The local overnight borrowing rate is now at 9 percent and the lending rate at 11.25 percent.

The Bangko Sentral last cut its key rates by 50 basis points on May 18.

The central bank has lowered its key rates by 6 percentage points since December after hiking them by 4 points in October to defend the peso when then President Joseph Estrada was embroiled in a corruption scandal.

The board also noted that given the most recent rate cut took place on May 18, the economy would be presently feeling only the initial impact of the adjustment.

"The board believes, therefore, that maintaining policy rates at the present levels will give more time for the recent rate cut to work its way on to monetary conditions," Buenaventura said.

He said on Tuesday that the policy making Monetary Board would take May's relatively low 6.5 percent inflation rate into account when deciding whether to ease overnight interest rates this week.

He also said that the benchmark rate could fall as far as 8.25 percent by the end of this year, if inflation stayed benign. He said he saw inflation this year averaging 6.25 percent and falling below 5.5 percent by year-end.

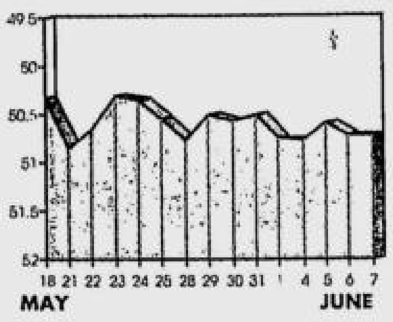
The government's official inflation target for this year is 6-7 percent.

Buenaventura said in the statement that the target was achievable with inflation seen gradually declining in the second half of 2001 and well into the first quarter of 2002.

"These developments provide scope for further monetary easing in the future," he said. *With a report from Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.71 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 7, 2001

¥120.16 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 120.16 as of 5 p.m., June 7, 2001

GOLD:$266.20/266.70
per ounce Hong Kong, June 7, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares rebound

SHARES rebounded yesterday, closing higher on the back of steady gains of blue chips battered earlier this week, particularly Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index finished 17.13 points, or 1.2 percent, higher to 1405.65 after losing 3.19 points Wednesday to 1389.52.

The broader All Shares Index also rose 4.37 points to 760.77 after sliding 3.43 points to 756.40 Wednesday.

Gainers beats losers 41 to 30, with 41 issues unchanged.

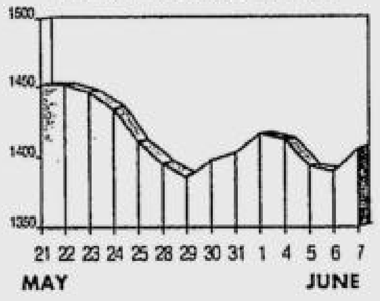
"We've already hit a major support (1380 on index) so you're now seeing the emergence of some technical buying," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc.

And the main focus of bargain-hunters is PLDT, whose shares fell to a six-year low of 610 early this week.

Manila Electric Co. and its sister company, First Philippine Holdings Corp., also sustained gains after the passage of the legislation that will further open the power industry to new investments.

After the passage of the power reform measures, however, analysts said the market has very little to look forward to in the coming days to perk up trading. *AP*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

FOREX LOSSES

MWSS, Maynilad reach deal

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT and the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc. are set to sign a memorandum of agreement today that would finally settle their dispute over a water rate recovery mechanism for foreign exchange fluctuations.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, the government regulatory body, and officials of Maynilad will be signing an MOA that would allow it to recover its foreign exchange losses through a P5-per-cubic-meter increase in its rate over the next 18 months.

Maynilad and MWSS sources yesterday confirmed that they were finalizing details of the rate adjustment that would resolve the private water utility's financial woes and these will be contained in the MOA.

"The MOA will finally resolve our long-standing dispute. This would now prod Maynilad to pay its concession fees which they have stopped paying for the past three months," a high-ranking MWSS official said.

However, the agreement brokered between Maynilad and the MWSS will have an impact on the monthly water charges of Maynilad customers.

The P5-per-cubic-meter proposal will represent an increase of 54 percent from the current rate of P9.27 per cubic meter for Maynilad customers. The government estimates that an average household will see a P20 increase in its monthly water bill.

The new water rate scheme was the result of studies conducted by the government negotiating panel made up of the MWSS Regulatory Office, the Department of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority.

Maynilad had been pressing the government to allow it to recover some P2.7 billion in losses arising from the sharp depreciation in the value of the peso against the dollar. The private water utility had absorbed the bulk of the MWSS' foreign loans when it won the bidding for half of the water firm's concession area.

Maynilad stopped paying its concession fee of P200 million a month to the MWSS since March after the government turned down its request to have an automatic currency exchange rate (Auto-Cera) adjustment scheme to recover fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who also chairs the MWSS Board of Trustees, earlier said in an interview that while they have agreed in principle on the P5-per-cubic-meter increase, the MWSS Regulatory Office is further studying its impact on consumers.

"We hope to finally solve the impasse between MWSS and Maynilad with this rate mechanism that (can be implemented) without altering the concession agreement," Datumanong told the INQUIRER.

Broker appointed SEC commissioner

By Elena R. Torrijos

MALACAÑANG has appointed broker and lawyer Juanita Cueto as associate commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Government officials said that Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena had informed the SEC about Cueto's appointment, which sources said was strongly pushed by brokers who have been complaining about some new SEC regulations stemming from the recently passed Securities Regulation Code.

Members of the Philippine Stock Exchange have been asking the SEC for exemption from or a favorable interpretation of certain SRC provisions, in particular those regarding the broker-dealer and broker-director rules, which the brokers claimed have led to the decline in volume and liquidity in the stock market.

As associate commissioner of the SEC, Cueto would be part of the Commission en banc that sets policy directions for the regulatory agency and decides on issues regarding the PSE.

Sources said that the appointment of Cueto, who is currently Yaptinchay Securities Inc.'s nominee to the PSE, had the approval of incoming Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, a former investment banker.

Cueto once briefly worked under SEC Chair Lilia Bautista when the latter was head of the Trade and Industry Department's legal division.

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RP dollar reserves down slightly last month

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves remained stable at $14.431 billion in May, down slightly from $14.442 billion in April.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the Philippines had no maturing obligations last month, allowing it to conserve its dollar holdings.

Central bank officials said at its May level, the country's gross international reserves could finance 4.3 months worth of imports.

The central bank said some $150 million to $200 million worth of private placement to be released by Credit Suisse First Boston on June 18 should augment the country's dollar reserves.

The Bangko Sentral is hoping to keep the country's gross international reserves at $15 billion this year, the same as last year's.

Foreign creditors and investors use a country's dollar reserves as an indicator of its ability to settle imports that, in turn, are used by manufacturers and exporters to produce commodities.

The central bank has said better economic prospects in the second half will attract more foreign direct and portfolio investments to the Philippines, giving the country a healthier dollar reserve level.

The International Monetary Fund earlier agreed to bring down by $1 billion to $15 billion the country's gross international reserves target this year on account of an expected slowdown in exports.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said a projected lower export growth this year of only 4 percent from the 8.7-percent actual growth last year would mean less dollar inflows.

He explained that the IMF and the government agreed on a lower gross international reserves level because of a lower export projection. Electronics exports might stay flat while shipment of other products would grow by only 4 percent, he said.

The Bangko Sentral, however, is optimistic that foreign direct investments, portfolio inflow and even remittances from overseas contract workers would help improve the reserves this year.

The gross reserves stood at $15.01 billion as of end-December although the government initially wanted to beef up the GIR to $16 billion.

As of end-March, the country's dollar reserves had improved by $597 million to $14.71 billion from $14.179 billion the previous month. The increase in reserves was attributed by the central bank to the disbursement of a $740-million, three-year facility obtained by the central bank from 19 lenders last month.

Of the $740-million loan obtained by the BSP in early March, about $400 million was used to settle borrowings that matured on Feb. 20. The remaining $340 million, plus a recently signed $130-million loan from Chase Manhattan and JP Morgan, were used to repay a $470-million obligation that fell due last April 8.

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Gov't studies issuing Meralco warrants

INSTEAD of simply selling its 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co., the Department of Finance is considering issuing warrants covered by a put-and-call option to maximize gains from its divestment from the blue-chip stock.

Incoming Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho said the government, in selling its Meralco shares, would explore an option to issue derivatives.

The sale of the government's Meralco shares would be a priority of the Committee on Privatization, especially after the power reform bill was finally passed into law early this week, he said.

Two years ago, these shares were worth about P9 billion. They had since lost around P4 billion of their value.

Meralco's A shares went up by 50 centavos to P40 yesterday while its B shares rose to P55.50.

Analysts are hoping the energy sector restructuring law will boost the share prices of the country's biggest electric utility.

Camacho said the government could sell Meralco warrants at P50 a share, with a call strike price of P65 each and a put strike price of P40.

Assuming a put-and-call option covering three years, the government may buy back the shares at P65 each if the price rises or compels the investor to buy them at P40 each if Meralco's shares plunge.

Camacho said the new scheme would allow the government to have a say on any future improvements in Meralco's share price or to cap losses should the stock price deteriorate further.

"We have to find a way to monetize our Meralco shares even when the stock market is down. I'd like us to explore a put-and-call option to preserve some value for the government," he said.

Of the 10-percent stake, about 16.7 million shares are being held by the Office of the President, 3 million shares are with the Republic of the Philippines, and 45 million shares are with the Asset Trust Privatization.

Meralco is the country's largest distributor of electricity serving 3.1 million customers from Bulacan to Batangas, including the densely populated Metro Manila.

The electric utility is controlled by the Lopez family.

Spanish firm Union Fenosa Acex now accounts for close to 10 percent of the company.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF STOCKHOLDERS OF
KEPPEL PHILIPPINES MARINE, INC.

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of ***Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc.***, shall be held on **15 June 2001** at **4:00 p.m.** at the Manila Room, Makati Shangri-la, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Ave., Makati City.

The agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 30 June 2000
4. Presentation and Approval of the 2000 Annual Report/Audited Financial Statements
5. Ratification of the Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Officers and Management of the Corporation during the year under review
6. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation re increase in the number of directors from seven (7) to nine (9)
7. Election of Directors
8. Directors Remuneration
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Such other matters as may properly come up before the meeting

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **18 May 2001** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on **18 May 2001** are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring your Identification Card and present the same at the registration desk at the entrance lobby of the Manila Room, Makati Shangri-la, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Ave., Makati City. Registration shall start at **3:30 p.m.**

Very truly yours,

(sgd)
MA. MELVA E. VALDEZ

IFC to approve $22-M Filinvest loan

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, is expected to approve before the end of the month a $22-million loan to publicly listed Filinvest Land Inc. for the expansion of the property developer's Northgate Cyberpark project in Alabang.

Outgoing IFC chief of mission for the Philippines Vipul Prakash said the Filinvest transaction and the $1-million loan to the Asian Eye Institute to be approved this week would round out a banner year in terms of IFC's investments in the Philippines.

Prakash said IFC's and its participating banks' total equity and loans for Philippine businesses were expected to reach $226 million over the company's fiscal year ending this June 30.

Since the start of its fiscal year, Prakash said, the IFC board had already approved $103-million investments, mostly in the form of loans.

These include the $50 million for Flughafen Frankfurt Main AG, one of the major shareholders of the project proponent for the construction and operation of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's third terminal, and the $46 million for the Manila North Tollway Corp.

The IFC board also approved a $6-million loan for Singapore-based ABW group to support Cebu-based furniture makers and a $1-million equity investment in the company.

A syndicate of IFC-accredited banks also agreed to lend $100 million to Frankfurt Main for the NAIA 3 project.

Prakash, who will be replaced in the Philippines by Sergio Pimenta, said IFC would likely also approve as much investments in the coming fiscal year as this year.

The outgoing IFC executive noted that projects in the pipeline for the next fiscal year covered call centers, another cyberpark and other infrastructure projects.

SBMA to get $100M for e-hub project

By Abigail L. Ho

SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said yesterday he was confident the SBMA would get over $100 million to turn Subic Bay into Asia's e-commerce hub.

In December last year, Hong Kong-based information technology firm DVB Holdings Ltd. expressed interest in infusing $100 million into Subic's IT advancement projects.

"But nothing is final yet as of the moment. It's a very big amount of money so it is to be expected that (DVB) is putting much effort into studying the IT terrain here before signing anything final," Payumo said.

He also said, however, that DVB was not looking into any other area in the country or in Asia for its e-commerce hub project.

"I believe they are only looking at Subic," he said.

He added that Subic's "small, manageable size and its having definitive boundaries" were big plus factors for investors like DVB wanting to expand the area's global connectivity.

"Makati is a relatively small place, too, but try making Makati (an e-commerce hub). Where do you begin? It has no definitive boundaries like Subic," he said.

The Subic Bay Freeport also has other IT advantages. It is the only place in the country that has three-way connectivity or is connected and possessing access to the Internet through microwave, satellite and submarine fiber optics.

It also has the Geographic Information System, a computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating and displaying geographically referenced information. SBMA law enforcement and fire departments are currently using this technology to provide immediate assistance during emergencies.

"With these technology already in existence here, it will not be hard to transform Subic into Asia's e-commerce hub," Payumo said.

Turning Subic into an e-commerce hub does not mean connecting only the large businesses in the freeport to the world.

"We also aim to empower the schools as well as the residents. There will come a time when government transactions can be validated online. We want to build an intelligent community," Payumo said.

Apart from the $100-million funding that the SBMA could get from DVB, additional funding could be borrowed from the Mori fund of the Japanese government to acquire additional servers if necessary.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF STOCKHOLDERS OF
KEPPEL PHILIPPINES HOLDINGS, INC.

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of ***Keppel Philippines Holdings, Inc.***, shall be held on **15 June 2001** at **3:00 p.m.** at the Manila Room, Makati Shangri-la, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Ave., Makati City.

The agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 30 June 2000
4. Presentation and Approval of the 2000 Annual Report/Audited Financial Statements
5. Ratification of the Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Officers and Management of the Corporation during the year under review
6. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation re decrease in the number of directors from eleven (11) to nine (9)
7. Election of Directors
8. Directors Remuneration
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Such other matters as may properly come up before the meeting

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **18 May 2001** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on **18 May 2001** are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring your Identification Card and present the same at the registration desk at the entrance lobby of the Manila Room, Makati Shangri-la, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Ave., Makati City. Registration shall start at **2:30 p.m.**

Very truly yours,

(sgd)
MA. MELVA E. VALDEZ
Corporate Secretary

SEACEM

SOUTHEAST ASIA CEMENT HOLDINGS INC.
17/F Chatham Building, Herrera cor. Valero Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS:

Please be informed that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of SOUTHEAST ASIA CEMENT HOLDINGS INC. ("Seacem") shall be held at The Manila Peninsula, on Wednesday, 27 June 2001, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, for the following purposes.

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice and Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the 28 June 2000 Stockholders' Meeting
4. Management Report
5. Approval of Audited Financial Statements as of 31 December 2000
6. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and of Management, done in the ordinary course of business as of 2000
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditors
9. Other matters
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors of Seacem has fixed the RECORD DATE for stockholders entitled to vote at this annual meeting to be on May 30, 2001.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 20 June 2001.

Registration starts at 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have some form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport, or Driver's License.

Very truly yours,

MARIA D. R. ANGELES
Corporate Secretary

Coco industry told to develop local market

THE COCONUT industry should veer away from markets abroad and instead develop its local market for coconut oil, according to newly appointed Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Danilo Coronacion.

In an interview, Coronacion said with low international prices for coconut products, he expected the coconut industry to cut by half exports of coconut oil.

The PCA and the Department of Finance are exploring the possibility of promoting other uses of coconut oil to manage rising copra volumes amid poor demand.

The two agencies also want to lessen the coconut industry's dependence on export markets.

Coronacion said the domestic market was absorbing about 20 percent of the coconut oil produced by the industry and used for commercial and industrial manufacturing purposes.

The rest are exported to the United States, Europe and countries in Asia. However, there is a current vegetable supply glut that has dampened prices of coconut oil from a high of $800 to $900 to a low of $245 per metric ton in the first quarter.

"We would want to develop the local market for coconut oil to at least lessen the impact of low world market prices on our industry. This was neglected before and we would want to make a difference on this area," Coronacion told the INQUIRER.

He said the government would pursue the marketing of coco-diesel and coco-bunker fuel as substitutes for expensive fossil fuels now being sold by local oil firms.

Coco-diesel is currently priced at P12 to P12.50 a liter while the diesel sold at gas stations is at about P14 to P14.50 a liter.

The PCA will also push for the use of coconut oil on detergent soap making instead of hard surfactants.

Coronacion had assessed that the slight improvement of world prices of coconut oil, which had risen by $275 million to $300 million per metric ton in the previous weeks, had not moved farm gate and mill gate prices of copra in the local market. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Leisure hub seen boosting Megaworld profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

MEGAWORLD Corp.'s new dining and entertainment hub being developed within its flagship Eastwood City Cyberbark is seen to boost the real estate firm's growth prospects for the next three years.

The 1.5-hectare neo-urban complex, dubbed as the Eastwood City Walk, combines bistros and galleries with a park-like landscape. The new development, comparable to the El Pueblo complex in Ortigas, is expected to accommodate more than 20 locators upon full project completion.

ATR Kim Eng Securities analyst Dennis Du said income from this new development should help Megaworld shore up revenues while it had yet to reap the gains from other real estate projects.

Megaworld reported a 2-percent year-on-year increase in its first quarter net income to P226 million, representing its first quarterly increase in five quarters. Other income improved 108 percent due to higher rental revenues from office and commercial leases.

"We had identified Megaworld's small rental base as a weak spot in the company's product portfolio. Recurring rentals provide a revenue buffer against declining or slow project revenue recognition. However, the opening of its retail/dining complex in Eastwood Cyberpark starts to address this concern," Du said.

Among the locators that have already opened shop in City Walk are Italian restaurant Fazoli, fastfood giant McDonald's, Macau restaurant, Tokyo Tokyo and Subway. Among those expected to open soon are Via Mare, Mystic Grill, Country Waffle and Minggoy's.

William Co, president of Eastwood Property Holdings Inc., the Megaworld subsidiary handling the City Walk development, said: "We are quite pleased that City Walk has attracted the biggest names in the dining and entertainment industry. We are looking forward to a fulfilling partnership with them."

After a contraction in its net income to P617 million in 2000 from P861 million in 1999, ATR Kim Eng is expecting Megaworld to post higher growth in the next three years. This year, it has projected Megaworld's net income to reach P708 million, further increasing to P982 million in 2002 and to P1.12 billion in 2003.

In 2000, Du noted that gross profits from real estate sales dropped by 6 percent. But he explained that sales take-up had been strong except that longer payment terms and construction periods had combined to delay revenue recognition.

"As these strategies were implemented in full in 2000, we expect revenue recognition to start perking up only by the second half of 2001," Du said.

"Megaworld has nine ongoing and launched vertical residential projects, which should provide at least P11.1 billion in revenues up to 2004. Most of these projects, including those not yet started, have been fully sold. Other future revenue sources include at least five office/institutional projects for lease and which should boost the all-important rental base," Du said.

World Bank keen on new loan to gov't

By C. S. Batino

THE WORLD Bank said it was open to extending a new program loan for the government after it had agreed, upon the request of the Macapagal administration, to cancel the remaining $400-million banking sector reform loan.

"We usually enter into a three-year rolling program with the government. After we have agreed to cancel the (banking sector loan), this is a good chance to talk about the new program loan," World Bank country director Vinay Bhargava said.

Incoming Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho said the government would explore options for a new program loan even as he admitted that one alternative was a public sector reform loan.

The multilateral donor had signed two agreements worth $2.45 million with the government the other day to support growth and recovery in Mindanao.

The agreements included $1.5 million for the Special Zone for Peace and Development and $950,000 to support peace and development in Mindanao.

"The grants will help the government address the deep-rooted issues affecting peace and development in the region and render critical interventions to alleviate the dismal living conditions specially of the sectors most severely victimized by war and poverty," outgoing Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

Bhargava said the $1.5-million grant would be financed by the Japan Social and Development Fund.

The World Bank and the Macapagal administration are scheduled to discuss a new program loan today. Bhargava noted that World Bank would continue to focus on medium-term projects for the Philippines.

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MON.-FRI. 8 AM - 7 PM / SATURDAY 8 AM - 3 PM

$600-M NAPHTHA CRACKER

Petrochem deal seen this year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN Philippine National Oil Co. is looking at a strategic joint-venture agreement to develop the $600-million naphtha cracker project.

PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan yesterday said the strategic partner for the project would be a foreign firm.

"We aim to have a joint-venture agreement signed early in the last quarter of this year," Cunanan said in a press briefing.

The former ambassador said PNOC was aiming for a 34-percent equity in the joint venture, which would be the same as that of the strategic partner.

"The remaining 32 percent could belong to one of the eleven other firms that have expressed interest in the naphtha project," Cunanan said.

He added that the group of private firms was wrapping up this month the signing of a new memorandum of agreement replacing the old MOA that expired last March.

The 11 firms include Petron Corp., Petrochemicals Corp., Bataan Polyethylene Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., Itochu Corp., Mitsui & Co., Marubeni Corp., BP Amoco PLC, Philippine Resins Industries Inc. and D&L Industries.

Cunanan added that PNOC was in the process of shortlisting possible financial advisers and loan arrangers for the project.

"We are pushing to make a decision by August," he said.

He said that if the financial adviser and the loan arranger had been chosen by then, it would be possible to sign the joint-venture agreement in September.

"What we want is to cut on idle time," Cunanan added.

The naphtha cracker is targeted to be in operation by mid-2004 or 2005.

Cunanan said construction could begin by next year if everything went smoothly.

Cunanan said private contractors have estimated that construction would take between 30 and 36 months.

Asked how PNOC's equity in the joint venture would be funded, he said at least half would come from internally generated funds.

"It may be possible to cover it entirely with internally generated funds, but if not, we would tap loans," he said.

Also, Cunanan said they were hoping to take advantage of possible incentives provided for in the Omnibus Investment Bill pending in Congress.

The naphtha cracker will manufacture raw materials needed for the production of plastic products.

Without the cracker, the country remains dependent on importing raw materials for the petrochemical industry.

The plant is expected to have a capacity of between 600,000 and 700,000 tons a year.

SMC not buying Cosmos

FOOD and beverage firm San Miguel Corp. said yesterday it was not in talks to acquire local soft drinks firm Cosmos Bottling Corp., a unit of RFM Corp.

The firm made the disclosure following reports that a foreign investment firm was brokering a deal between the two beverage firms.

"San Miguel is not in negotiations for the acquisition of Cosmos Bottling Corp.," San Miguel said in a statement.

RFM had said it was not selling Cosmos as it was banking on the beverage firm to play a major role in its portfolio. *Reuters*

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Philrock asks creditor-banks to restructure ₱365M in loans

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILROCK Inc., the construction arm of the Yuchengco group, has asked its creditor-banks to restructure some P365 million worth of loans in preparation for its merger with listed parent firm EEI Corp.

EEI said in a report to shareholders that it would absorb 50 percent of the loans once Philrock's outstanding loans were restructured into term loans.

The report said this debt management scheme would lead to interest cost savings. EEI has already assumed P57 million of Philrock's loans as of the end of last year.

"The EEI-Philrock merger is expected to result in economies of scale and will enhance efficiency of operations while allowing for better financial management and sourcing of funds. Philrock will also benefit from marketing synergies and better management focus," the report said.

Last year, Philrock had to undertake decisive steps to rationalize and fortify its business in light of the difficult economic environment. It already sold and closed its Puray Crusher Plant and the batch plant in Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

Stockholders approved the merger of EEI and Philrock last February.

"Looking ahead, the outlook for the government infrastructure market remains challenging. Growth is not expected in the near term due to the large budget deficit," the report said.

"However, a number of projects in airport modernization, port development, highway rehabilitation and other infrastructure funded by international financial institutions have been endorsed by the National Economic Development Authority for implementation in 2001," the report added.

Philrock has been in the construction business for more than 50 years and is primarily engaged in horizontal real estate development such as land clearing.

It provides core strengths to EEI in civil works, foundation engineering and airport construction.

Philrock brought down its losses to P8 million last year, down from the P232 million recorded the previous year, which it attributed to streamlining and cost-recovery measures started in 1999.

Philrock bagged P652.6 million worth of contracts last year, 6.7 percent lower than the previous year. Horizontal construction projects totaled P501 million or 77 percent of total contracts awarded during the year.

Rita Ritz thrives in herbal tea making

SUCCESS STORY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN Erlinda Castro-Sanqui was growing up in a quiet farm in Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija, she had the habit of watching her grandmother make fresh tea out of the different leaves and herbs that grew abundantly in their farm.

Her grandmother made her drink tea as cure for various ailments and as food supplement. The leaves and herbs were either boiled fresh or dried for future use.

Sanqui says she has been regularly drinking tea since then and she passed on the habit to her daughter. When her daughter left for abroad in 1986, Sanqui was forced to innovate and made herbal tea in teabags so her daughter could bring some with her.

"Since she could not possibly bring fresh tea so I had to dry it and put it in teabags. I just put into practice everything I learned from childhood and I was able to come up with my own *pito-pito* tea," she says.

Recognition

It did not take long for her *pito-pito* tea to gain recognition. Sanqui entered her *pito-pito* herbal tea blend in a contest sponsored by the United Nations Development Program in 1990 and it won the gold medal. She was also named the Woman Inventor of the Year by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Thus was born the country's herbal tea making industry.

During the 1997 World Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva Switzerland, Sanqui reaped more honors. Her *banaba* tea, said to be a drink for vigor and health, was awarded a silver medal while the *pito-pito* tea was awarded a bronze medal.

The caffeine-free *pito-pito* dried herbal tea is made from seven plants—alagao, queen's crape myrtle, guava, mango, fragrant screw pine, anise and gotu-kola. The mixture, she says, is a product of all what she learned from watching her grandmother and mother prepare tea for the family.

"You never forget what you learn in childhood. I grew up with my grandmother so I stayed in the farm until I was seven. I am really a farm girl at heart," Sanqui adds.

Commercialized

As soon as she got her gold medal, she commercialized her *pito-pito* tea and included it in the product list of her Rita Ritz Bake House and Food Products. The bakeshop started out as a little office inside her house in Quezon City.

She initially sold her tea along with her award-winning Fruitcake Filipina, which she has been making since 1984.

"I used to make traditional fruit cakes. When the import ban was imposed in 1983, I decided to make use of local ingredients. It was a long and tiring process because I had to experiment until I got it right," she explained.

Her patented Fruitcake Filipina is made up of local wine, local nuts such as pili and cashew and 12 different fruits.

One of her friends encouraged her to enter the fruitcake in a science fair at the Philippine Trade Training Center in 1984. Out of 216 participants, she won third place. She says the first award she got encouraged her to trust her creative instincts and continue coming out with new products.

Sanqui proudly says that even former President Corazon Aquino patronized her products and gave them out as gifts to her Cabinet secretaries in 1988.

From Fruitcake Filipina and the *pito-pito* herbal tea, Sanqui expanded her product mix to include tamarind nectar concentrate, tamarind jam, honeyed tamarind candy and tamarind dessert.

ERLINDA Castro-Sanqui's pito-pito tea reaps honors.

"I love tamarind. We used to have a lot of that in our farm. I did a lot of experimenting and apply what I learned from childhood. I tried to do it just the way my grandmother used to make them for me," Sanqui says.

Expanding

Rita Ritz also sells sweet and sour sauce, tomato marmalade, herbal dash (a substitute for salt), instant *pinakbet* condiment and kaperitz—a coffee substitute made of ground rice.

Her herbal tea line now includes *lagundi* tea, *sambong*, *tsaang gubat*, mango tea, kapetola, basil tea and lemon grass. Her *pito-pito* also now comes in ginger and lemon flavors.

For pioneering the herbal tea business, Sanqui was elevated last November to the Hall of Fame for Filipino inventors, but Sanqui says she feels equally proud for having been chosen as an Ulirang Ina.

At 70, Sanqui shows no sign of slowing down in her business. She says she is now developing a new line of tea made of fruits.

"Somebody should do it or else our natural resources will just go to waste," she adds.

SEC urged to junk VMC management plea

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE MANAGEMENT Committee of Victorias Milling Co. has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to dismiss a petition submitted by the VMC management seeking the disqualification of committee members representing creditor-banks of the cash-strapped sugar producer.

The VMC management, in its petition, argued that certain members of the VMC mancom were taking the side of the banks that they represent to the detriment of the company.

The VMC mancom argued that no ill-motive can be imputed in advocating and causing the implementation of the approved rehabilitation plan, which has, after all, been approved by the SEC.

"If we were to proceed on the petitioner's logic, then it is they (the management) that have not been acting in consonance with the order of the SEC. Knowing fully well that a rehabilitation plan has been approved by the SEC, the petitioners persist in resisting the same," the VMC mancom noted.

The mancom noted that it was created to manage the corporation and as such, act to insure that the corporation was properly run.

The SEC earlier approved the alternative rehabilitation plan for VMC proposed by the mancom, although VMC had been pressing for the approval of its own rehabilitation plan.

The SEC-approved plan calls for the restructuring of VMC's over P5 billion in debt, the entry of a strategic investor, or the infusion of about P400 million by the creditor banks.

The VMC management had strongly opposed the mancom-led initiative to install former National Development Corp. general manager Arthur Aguilar as chief operating officer of VMC. Despite the opposition, however, Aguilar was allowed to assume his post.

Filoil plans to develop Cavite property worth ₱1B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. subsidiary Filoil Development and Management Corp. is planning to develop a P1 billion worth of property in Rosario, Cavite.

PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan yesterday said four real estate developers had expressed interest in developing PNOC's land.

Cunanan said Filoil would choose only one partner for the mixed-use development of the property.

According to a document provided by Filoil, the 118-hectare property is composed of two clusters of lots located east and west of the Cavite Export Processing Zone.

About 29 hectares of the property are currently used as part of Petron Corp.'s bulk storage facility.

Another 50 hectares are planted to palay while the rest are used for residential and commercial purposes.

Cunanan said the residential portion of the property, which was about 10 hectares, was occupied by "informal dwellers."

However, he said the Supreme Court had already issued a decision on this in favor of Filoil.

The Filoil document showed that the company has had initial dialogues with the dwellers and the Cavite local government regarding relocation.

Also, Cunanan said the Philippine Economic Zone Authority was occupying five hectares of the property, for which Filoil has yet to collect rent.

"We are negotiating with Peza on the settlement of the P11 million in rent they owe us from 1996 to 2000," Cunanan said.

Filoil hoped to earn P4 million a year from the lease of the property starting this year.

Cunanan said Filoil was losing P1.8 million a year, which the rent could offset.

In 1998, the government issued a five-point directive for Filoil to develop its Rosario property. The order covers:

- The acceleration of the development of the 50-ha special economic zone adjacent to the CEPZ.
- The development of its former terminal/refinery site and adjacent lands as part of the economic zone.
- Development of economically viable and affordable housing for the informal dwellers and workers.
- Development of mixed land use for wide range of services required by locators and the workforce of the zone.
- Rehabilitation of its pier for movement to and from Metro Manila.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Fortune Cement Corp.** were Peter James Hoddinott, Gilbert Garcia, Jose Sio, Juan Miguel Montinola, Renato Sunico, Bi Yong Chungunco and John Reinier Dizon.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Properties announced the resignation of Lui Seng Fatt and Chee Fook Meng as director and treasurer, respectively. Elected as director was Yeo Kah Tiang while Dennis Lee Boon Seng was elected treasurer.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from June 27 to July 18.

* * *

CYBER Bay Corp. disclosed the changes in its by-laws, particularly the commencement of its fiscal year on the 1st of January and which shall close on the 31st of December of the same year. The company said it has yet to decide on the date of its annual stockholders' meeting.

* * *

DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc. clarified that the company is reviewing the deferral of the actual implementation of its "kiosks project" in the **PJ Lhuillier** pawnshops although the project remains technically possible. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of June 7, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	46,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	72	72.5	71.5	72.5	202,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38.5	38	38	36,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	219	219	216	217	65,020
Philippine National Bank	50	50	49.5	49.5	1,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	120,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	231	241	231	241	480
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1310	1300	1305	2,680
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	35,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1115	1125	1115	1125	2,510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	38	38	38	1,000
Diversified Fin. Network	7.9	8.9	7.9	8.9	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.46	0.46	1,380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	665	665	2,700
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	250,000
Piltel	0.59	0.6	0.58	0.58	230,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	615	650	615	650	65,730
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	50,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	39.5	40.5	39.5	40	70,700
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	56.5	55.5	55.5	296,100
Petron Corp.	2.18	2.28	2.18	2.28	11,382,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	150,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.6	2.42	2.5	12,199,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.36	1,800,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.5	400,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.26	1.32	1.26	1.3	9,435,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.5	4.35	3.5	4.25	2,038,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	163,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc	26.5	27	26	27	971,600
RFM Corp.	1.32	1.44	1.32	1.34	2,010,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41.5	42	13,100
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47	46.5	46.5	161,600
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5.5	5	5.5	63,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	10,000
Ayala Corporation	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	3,215,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.56	444,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	11	11.25	11	11	1,700
A. Soriano Corporation	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.54	310,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.17	800,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	160,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	200
Boulevard Holdings, Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	320,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.7	1.64	1.64	15,113,000
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	250,000
Crown Equities, Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	60,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	680,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,360,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.14	262,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp	2	2	2	2	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	24	24	24	24	613,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.22	1,460,000
Ionics, Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	3,300
Ipeople, Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc	1.98	2	1.98	2	58,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	370,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.48	1,330,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4	4	4	4	100,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,040,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	18,000
Music Corporation	2.24	2.26	2.22	2.22	260,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	90,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.0925	0.095	2,300,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.89	80,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	77,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.51	2,730,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.53	0.54	2,450,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
Manila Jockey Club	15	15	15	15	15,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	23,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	38	38	38	38	140,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	85,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	675	675	675	675	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	120,000
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	27,000,000
RFM Corporation - Pref.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	300,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	4,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.03	25,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.65	4.75	4.65	4.75	3,065,000
Araneta Properties, Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
Cityland Development Corp	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	30,000
C & P Homes, Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	2,700,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.31	1,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	3,120,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	2.3	2.36	2.3	2.36	3,866,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	120,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	130,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	10,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	1,360,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2,000,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	200,000
Omico Corporation	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	15,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	330,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	521,890	37,077,470.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	189,111,430	332,264,460.00
PRO	18,701,000	35,112,310.00
Mining	16,230,000	325,450.00
OIL	10,000,000	111,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	234,564,320	404,890,690.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	592.49	DOWN 3.71
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,966.56	UP 29.19
PRO	522.87	UP 11.07
Mining	1,113.06	UP 25.79
OIL	1.45	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	760.77	UP 4.37
Composite	1,406.65	UP 17.13

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NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112; NO. OF TRADES: 3,018

CURRENCIES

June 7, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.177856	1.000000	50.6430
Japan	Yen	0.009794	0.008315	0.4211
United Kingdom	Pound	1.641107	1.393300	70.5609
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.151019	0.126215	6.4932
Switzerland	Franc	0.657727	0.558410	28.2796
Canada	Dollar	0.773176	0.656426	33.2434
Singapore	Dollar	0.650031	0.551876	27.9487
Australia	Dollar	0.603874	0.512689	25.9641
Bahrain	Dinar	3.124453	2.652661	134.3387
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.314087	0.266660	13.5045
Brunei	Dollar	0.648350	0.550449	27.8764
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000089	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.026059	0.022124	1.1204
UAE	Dirham	0.320723	0.272294	13.7898
Korea	Won	0.000916	0.000778	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.849000	42.9959
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.434087	21.9835
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129429	6.5547
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.385259	19.5107
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061699	3.1246
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021046	1.0658
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000438	0.0222
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142792	7.2314
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004235	0.2145
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005103	0.2584
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021046	1.0658
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.078008	54.5936

RP cold to new round of WTO trade talks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES and other developing countries in Asia are hesitant in participating in a new round of trade talks being pushed by the World Trade Organization because of lingering concerns over trade agreements forged in the previous round.

"Developed countries must first acknowledge that many developing country-members of the WTO, including the Philippines, face very real problems in implementing the agreements arising from the Uruguay Round," Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, who is attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting in Shanghai yesterday, said in a faxed statement.

Roxas said these problems were caused by dislocation and adjustment gaps experienced by various sectors of the Philippine economy, arising from the structural reforms initiated under the Uruguay Round in 1994. These reforms include the abolition of quantitative restrictions on imports and staggered reduction of tariff and subsidies.

The Federation of Philippine Industries claimed that the Philippines has already cut its tariffs by roughly half since 1995, which was more than the WTO required.

The FPI claimed that the Philippines has cut its average tariff on agricultural products by 52 percent from 27.9 percent in 1995 to 14.4 percent in 2000. Average duties on manufactured goods have likewise been slashed by 49 percent to 13.96 percent in 1995 to 6.91 percent last year. WTO members are mandated to reduce duties on all tradable goods by at least 33 percent from over a 10-year period up to 2004 when the global trade watchdog wants to implement freer trade between nations.

Roxas said that if developed countries would not recognize the hardships faced by developing countries in adjusting to freer global trade, it would be difficult to reach a consensus on a new round of discussions as planned in the WTO's next ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar in November this year.

Aside from the lack of support from developing countries, Roxas said WTO members were also divided on the areas that should be covered in the new round of negotiations.

"The negotiation gaps could be wider than they appear. Developing countries want a clear agenda and that talks should include a relief mechanism for developing countries."

Roxas, however, conceded that the Philippines and the developing countries have no choice but to go with what the majority of WTO members decides on the issue of a new round of trade negotiations.

He said the Philippines could ill-afford to be out of the loop considering that its exports have grown to $38 billion last year from $11 billion in 1994 when the Uruguay Round was concluded.

While the Philippines can opt to focus only on a regional trading block (Asean Free Trade Area) or forge separate Free Trade Agreements with other countries, Roxas said these trade agreements have very limited scope compared to the WTO.

ROXAS

What matters most to Filipino employers

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

IF a credo were to be formulated to express the Filipino employers' value systems in relating with their employees, how would it look like? What do the employers in this country expect from their workers? What matters most to them in terms of employee behavior? What are the most important criteria of their choice of good employees? And what are they willing to give back to the work force?

The US models

If we were to scan the management books about foreign business leaders who achieved legendary results in dealing with their people, we would perhaps see a preponderance of US corporate managers who built names for themselves by focusing on certain areas in people management. Lee Iacocca of Chrysler and Ford would likely stress that what is vital is to make your people accountable.

Sam Walton, the famous founder of WalMart, would demand customer focus while the legendary Jack Welch, CEO of GE, would insist on a boundary-less corporation where turf and divisions are shattered. Charles Tandy, founder of Radio Shack, would instill in his personnel the entrepreneurial spirit, that which the famous author Larry Farrel calls the spirit of enterprise. Robert Johnson of J&J fame calls it "enlightened self-interest."

Japanese paradigms

Konosuke Matsushita started by investing his life savings of 100 yen in imported electric sockets. His simple objective was to resell them all. He failed because he focused on what he'd get from selling. He then decided to refocus his attention on what the customers wanted. He prospered and built what is now known worldwide as Matsushita Electric, famous for its Panasonic products. Thus, he required his employees to focus on customers.

Keichiro Takahara, the founder and CEO of Unicharm Corp., one of Japan's fastest growing corporations, likewise insists that his employees focus on the customers. The company adopted the slogan "Nola and Dola," which means the needs and desires of ladies. The customers dictate the technology, styles and employee behavior.

In the Philippines, we have some outstanding models that showed excellence in people management. We need to look at the values they are looking for.

Sorianos: Profit with honor

The legendary Don Andres Soriano Sr., the great visionary and industrial pillar who built the foundations of what today is well known as San Miguel Corp., was famous for the importance he gave on positive human values such as "Palabra de honor" or the word of honor of both employers and employees—their truthfulness to their promises and commitment, their fidelity to duty and respect for authority.

Mr. Andy (Andres Soriano Jr.) and the grandson AS III professionalized the highly paternalistic style of management. But they adhered to the lasting values instilled by Don Andres like *delicadeza* or a basic sense of decency or a commitment to a higher level of honor and self-respect, an unfailing fidelity to trust and an uncompromising honesty. Today, Boss Danding stresses on loyalty as the most important.

"Profit with honor" is a credo emblazoned in bold indelible letters in the hearts and minds of the original and genuine SMC personnel. It is their vow to pursue business goals without cheating the customers or taking advantage of their workers, without destroying the environment or evading taxes and without neglecting their social responsibility. It is also the motto of true San Miguel personnel to earn their pay by rendering commensurate work and dealing with each other with respect and affection and, above all, to value the customers and to remain loyal to the company's products and brands.

Concepcions: Business with social responsibility

Jose and Raul Concepcion, the twin brothers who built their respective business empires into formidable conglomerates, could perhaps formulate their credo along the balance between business goals and their commitment to the country's struggle for socio-economic and political developments. There is hardly any leading issue in the country where the Concepcions are not in the forefront, from the People Power revolution to citizen's actions in elections to oil price watch.

Their deep involvement in national issues perhaps reflect their attitude toward their personnel. The Concepcions exemplify the thesis that one's corporate career does not necessarily come in conflict with his duties to society and to the nation.

Lopezes and Ayalas: Growing the nation

The history of the country cannot be told in its fullness without the parallel epics of the Ayalas' and the Lopezes' business empires. Whether it is real estate or communication, power or water, the Lopezes and the Ayalas have built for themselves and for the nation a legacy of business excellence and the people's upliftment. We wish we have more data to expound further on the way they deal with their workers. But the prestige and fame are there.

Chinese taipans: Reward for loyalty

For the Tans, Sys, Gos and Gokongweis, one outstanding mark of their leadership style is the value they place on loyalty. The Chinese are grateful people. If you are loyal to them, they will reward your loyalty up to the generations to come.

To conclude all these, what matters most to employers largely depend on the value systems of the owners and their top guns. A credo reflects such values and serves as guide on decision-making and relationships. *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)*

US investors hail passage of power bill

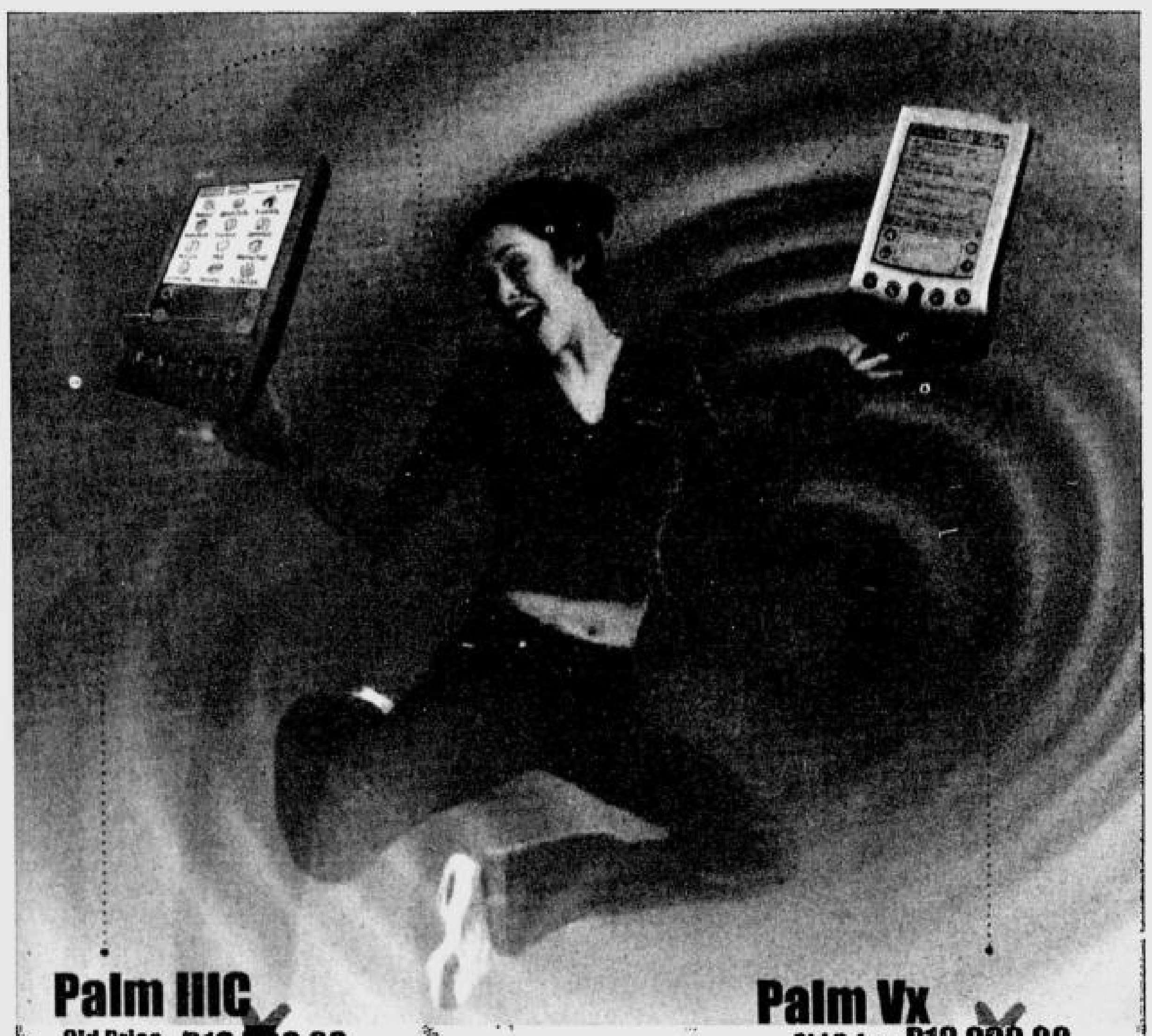
AMERICAN investors have lauded the passage of the Philippine Electric Power Reform Act by Congress last June 4.

The legislation has been viewed by foreign investors as a key benchmark in President Macapagal-Arroyo's effort to promote competitiveness in the Philippine economy.

The newly passed bill provides the legal framework for the restructuring of the electric power industry and the privatization of the assets and liabilities of Napocor. It also creates four divisions: generation, transmission, distribution and supply. The generation and distribution sectors will be opened to competition while the transmission sector will be assumed by the proposed National Transmission Corp.

Under the bill, Napocor's financial obligations will be assumed in part by the government, which would pay not more than P200 billion ($4 billion) of Napocor's debts. Any unpaid debts in excess of the P200 billion will be passed on to consumers as part of a proposed universal charge. The bill also provides for the condonation of the P19-billion debt of the National Electrification Administration (NEA). NEA will also be transferred to the proposed Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the body which will own all existing generation assets, liabilities, contracts with independent power producers and other assets of Napocor before they are sold to private investors.

In addition to sending a strong signal to the investor community, the passage of the bill will also result in the release of both pending and new loans from the Asian Development Bank and the Japanese Import-Export Bank amounting to almost $1 billion.



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Japan's creaking economy crawls forward for now

TOKYO—Japan's stumbling economy stands on the brink of another recession and promises of reform by the new prime minister may not be enough to haul it back from the precipice, analysts say.

Gross domestic product data to be released on Monday will show quarter-on-quarter growth of up to 0.4 percent in the three months to March, according to the market consensus.

But most in the know, including Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa, say first-quarter growth will only have been a temporary respite preceding a fresh slowdown in the world's second-biggest economy.

"I think the GDP result for January-March will show a good reading but I am carefully watching the result for April-June," Shiokawa said this week, adding that he feared a slight contraction in the second quarter.

GDP expanded 0.7 percent over October-December and the economy is expected to have escaped recession—two consecutive quarters of contraction—in the following three months.

But ING Barings chief economist Richard Jerram predicted the economy, hurt by the US slowdown, would slip back into recession by the end of the year for the first time since 1999.

"Although (current) figures would not show the economy is in a decline, the problem is where the dynamics are taking us," he said, citing a recent slowdown in Japanese export growth.

Jerram predicted growth of 0.4 percent for the January-March quarter, helped by one-off demand for white goods such as refrigerators in advance of a new recycling law in Japan.

"Consumption figures were quite decent because there was a frenzy of people buying large goods" before the law came into force in April, he said.

Japanese consumers rushed to ditch aging household appliances in favor of new ones before the law introduced new disposal charges levied by local governments.

Industrial Bank of Japan economist Tomonobu Wakabayashi forecast a GDP rise in the past quarter of 0.3 percent, led by a 1.2-percent gain in non-residential investment.

Spending unrelated to household expenditure rose 6.7 percent in the three months to December.

However, Japanese companies are at the same time hitting the brakes on their spending, with a new survey of non-financial companies released by the finance ministry backing the consensus of an imminent slowdown.

Capital expenditure inched up only 2.5 percent over January-March, compared with 7.1 percent in the previous quarter, the survey showed Thursday. *AFP*

Apec trade boosted as regional tariffs fall

CANBERRA, Australia—Substantial tariff reductions among the 22 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum have boosted trade within group, an Australian government report said Thursday.

Average tariffs among member nations have fallen by a third, from 12 percent in 1995 to 8 percent in 2000, according to the report by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

"The reductions in tariff levels have made a real impact on trade flows with imports and exports increasingly taking place at low tariff levels," said the report prepared for an Apec Trade Ministers' meeting in Shanghai on Wednesday.

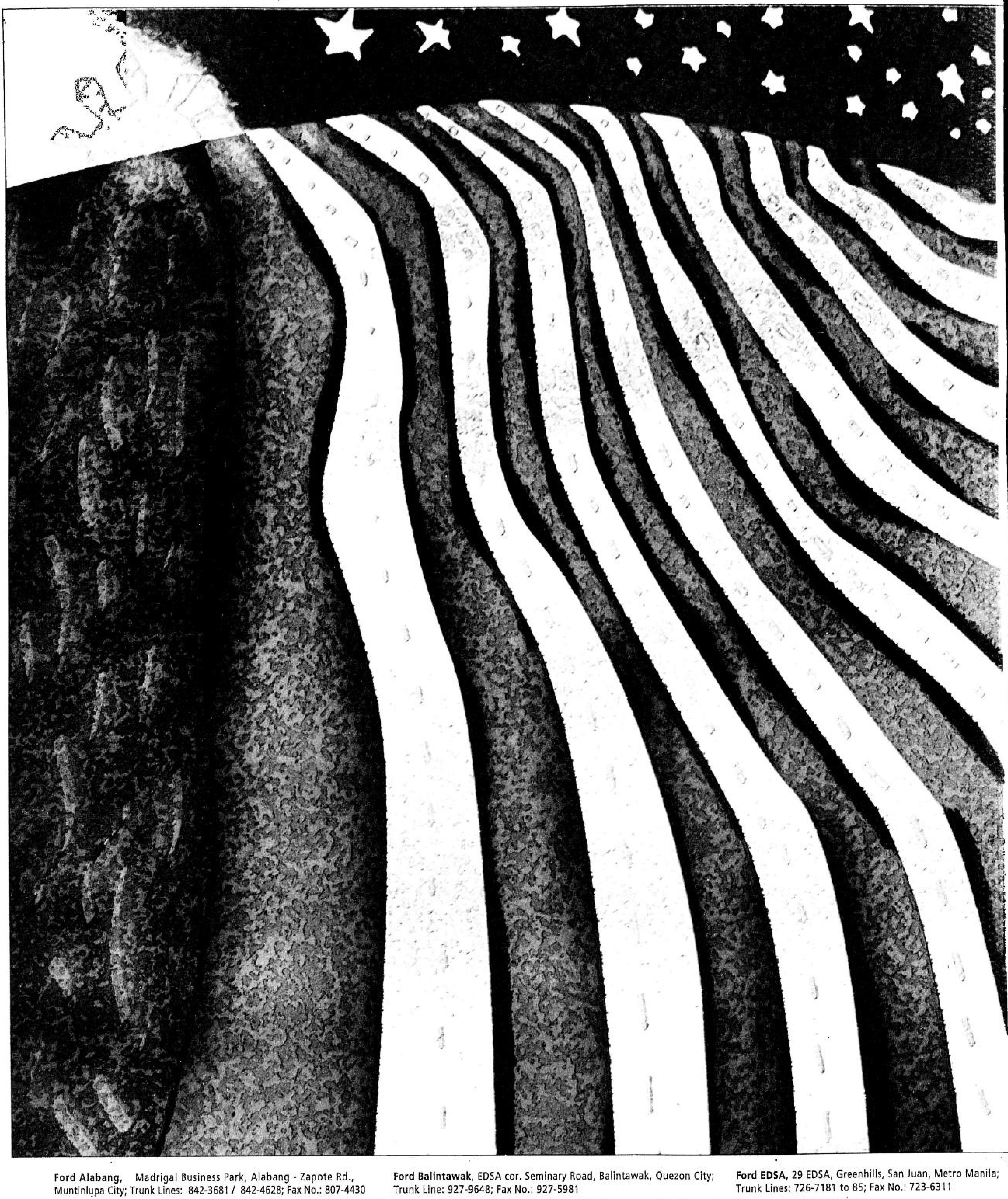
In 1995, 59 percent of goods were imported at tariff levels of between zero percent and 5 percent in Apec countries. In 2000 that had increased to 69 percent of goods.

"There is clearly a move among Apec member economies away from imposing high levels of tariffs on imports," the report said.

The report estimates that total imports among Apec members were worth $2 trillion in 2000.

However, the report said if the benefits of free trade were to be maximized, member countries must increase efforts to reduce non-tariff barriers.

Such barriers included differing customs standards, labeling requirements, intellectual property protection and non-recognition of professional qualifications. *AP*



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Fed's Meyer sees no sign US economy is strengthening

NEW YORK—The US economy remained sluggish, with no signs of improvement from the 1.3-percent growth rate in the first quarter, Federal Reserve board governor Laurence Meyer said Wednesday.

"There are no signs yet that the economy is strengthening relative to its first-quarter performance and growth is likely to remain sluggish into the third quarter," Meyer said in a speech prepared for delivery to the New York Association for Business Economics and The Downtown Economists.

Meyer said the consensus forecast of Wall Street economists, which generally expected a weak first half—but no recession—followed by a rebound beginning in the second half of the year culminating in a return to "trend" growth around 3.5 percent next year, is "quite optimistic."

"While a recovery along the lines of the consensus forecast is reasonable, I see some downside risks to that outlook," Meyer said.

It appears "inevitable" that consumer spending is likely to remain below the pace of income gains for a while as a result of a negative wealth effect generated by the drop in stock prices, Meyer said.

Favoring a return of growth, the response to the 250 basis points of easing since the beginning of the year should "begin to mount in the second half and continue to build in 2002," Meyer said.

Energy prices should move lower if expectations in futures markets are borne out. And fiscal stimulus in the form of tax cuts is on the way, he noted.

"But the key to the strength and rapidity of the recovery will be the balance between the working off of excesses associated with new-economy forces that built up in 1999 and early 2000 and the renewal of investments as new-economy opportunities continue to accumulate," he said.

The Fed governor said it is unlikely that economic performance next year would return to the "exceptional performance" from 1996 to mid-2000.

"We are unlikely to see a repeat of the unsustainable rise in equity prices or frenzied pace of investment, at least for a time. The events of the past year are likely to linger in the minds of many," Meyer added.

At the same time, the Fed "must be concerned that as we ease to mitigate the risks of a persistent slowdown or recession, we do not at the same time create conditions that would lead to higher inflation as the expansion gathers momentum."

AFP

Malaysia PM says no need to devalue ringgit

TOKYO—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Thursday that despite currency devaluations in neighboring countries there was no current reason to devalue the ringgit.

"Our neighbors have their currencies devalued, and lots of people think Malaysia should also devalue in order to stay competitive," he said in a speech in Tokyo. "Of course, there may be instances when we may have to devalue our currency," he added. "But not at the moment."

Mahathir is also acting finance minister, following the recent resignation of Daim Zainuddin, and has not said when he will name a permanent replacement.

Falling international reserves and outflows of funds in recent months have raised doubts about the durability of Malaysia's ringgit peg, currently set at 3.80 to the dollar, although economists say it is still too early to sound the alarm bell.

Speculation that Malaysia might devalue the ringgit was rife in financial markets last month and exporters have clamored for a devaluation to offset sliding regional currencies.

Mahathir said that while a devaluation would indeed cut the cost of exports, that would only be a temporary gain at best and it would be offset by a number of factors, including rising imports that would spark a jump in the cost of living and force wages higher as well.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of Dec.2000 will be auctioned on June 22, 8:30am.
Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.

YUPANGCO PAWNSHOP, INC. Pledges as of Nov. - Dec. will be auctioned at the ff. offices: Blk. 2-K 2nd Flr. Galleria Baclaran Taft Ave., PC-June 19 '01-8:30AM; 200 Zapote Bacoor Cavite-June 19 '01-2:00PM; Apt. 5 South Superhighway Alabang Muntinlupa MM-June 26 '01 8:30AM
J. Flor-Auctioneer

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ISIDRO TRIBIANA SR and GLORIA TRIBIANA who died on Oct. 12, 1990 and May 20 1992 respectively is the object of extra judicial settlement of estate by and among his/her legal heirs and is entered as Doc. No. 218 Page No. 44 Book No. 235 Series of 2001 in the notarial registry of Atty. Hector B. Centeno, Notary Public Commissioned until Dec. 31, 2001 PTR No. 1973610 (PDI--June 1, 8 and 15, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICIANA VILLAVEZA was extrajudicially settled and partition among the heirs per Doc. No. 127; Page No. 26; Book No. XXV; Series of 2001 before Notary Public ANGEL R. GONZALES of Pasay City
PDI- June 8, 15 & 22, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Jose Castillo of Ususan, Taguig, MM has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 68; Page No. 15; Book No. XXXVII; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Primitivo C. Cruz PDI May 25, June 1 & 8, 2001 1001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Fernando Z. Vicente has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 109; Page 23; Book XII; Series of 2001 bef. Not. Pub. A. A. Cecilia C. Macalangay-Avila of Pasay City. (PDI- June 2.9. &16 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of SP1 Stock Cert. 5902 w/ 20,000 shares under the name of Alexander James Henshaw. If no contest is presented, new cert. will be issued.
PDI--June 8, 15 & 22,2001
Call +852 25045260

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

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Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resumés, together with their IBP No., PTR No., certification from the Supreme Court as included in the Roll of Attorneys, transcript of records, and recent 2"x2" photo to the Personnel Department, The New Philippine Skylanders, Inc., ICT Building, NAIA, Pasay City. Tel. No. 8311061-69

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Bring Biodata/Resumé, NBI Clearance / 2x2 ID picture at FILWHEELS, INC. #68 Danny Floro Street, Bagong Ilog, Pasig City Tel. 671-3855/671-3879.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby informed that a **WARRANT OF ARREST** has been issued by the Honorable Metropolitan Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 33 against **MR. SEVERINO TUAZON** whose picture appears above, in connection with Criminal Cases Nos. 51198-207 for violation of the Bouncing Checks Law. Any person who might know his whereabouts, please contact:

THE LAW FIRM OF
ZAMORA MENDOZA AND ASSOCIATES
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(PDI - June 8, 2001)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

To our valued customers and suppliers

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Our Sales and Marketing Office has moved to a new office located at:

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MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
JOINT VENTURE: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND. CO., LTD.
Bo. Mapandan, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2001 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION will be held at the Human Development Center, Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation, Bo. Mapandan, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay Rizal, on June 15, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. The Agenda of the meeting is setforth below:

1. **National Anthem**
2. **Call to Order**
3. **Establishment of Quorum**
4. **President's Annual Report**
5. **Approval of Minutes of 2000 Annual Stockholders' Meeting**
6. **Financial Report**
7. **Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and Management**
8. **Election of New Members of the Board of Directors**
9. **Other Business**
10. **Adjournment**

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **May 25, 2001** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at said annual meeting.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than **May 30, 2001.**

Registration starts at 3:00 p.m. on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have some form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport or Driver's License.

Taytay, Rizal, May 15, 2001.

(Sgd.) **MAMERTO Z. MONDRAGON**
Corporate Secretary

National/Panasonic

(PDI - June 8 2001)

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INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on First-Come, First-Served basis at the Special Accounts Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LDA-137a	428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City	253.70 m² adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. 119287 and 126066) with 4-door apartment type residential building.	P 2,520,100.00
LJG-96	28 Chico Road, Potrero, Malabon	164 m² residential lot (TCT No. M-21189) with two-storey residential building	P 1,151,800.00
BULACAN			
VCP-19	No. 78 Dr. Teofilo Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria	250 m² residential/semi commercial lot (TCT No. T-18584 P(M) with three-storey residential building and improvements thereon	P 3,200,000.00
CAVITE			
LRD-114	J. Soriano St., Bo. Ligtong IV, Rosario	9,922 m² agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. T-899531 and T-899532) utilized as salt bed and fishpond	P 9,922,000.00
VCP-46	Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay City	1,500 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-36905) with fence	P 4,776,300.00
LRD-108b & 108c	Lot 11 & 13, Cherry St., Greenfield Subd. Bo. Silangan, Rosario	Two (2) parcels of vacant residential lot each with 216 m² (TCT Nos. T-896707 and 899528) with fence	P 655,400.00 (per lot)
ZAMBALES			
LDA-137B	Bo. Lucapon, Sta Cruz	6,639 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 48082)	P 2,627,800.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" and per unit basis)			
VJC(79b1-79b14)	FMI's Warehouse, National Road, Masagana Homes, Phase III, Bgy. Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan	15 units of various machineries and equipment for steel fabrication.	P 3,700.00 to P255,000.00/unit
LDA(126a-126f)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	6 units of various machineries and equipment for fabrication of steel furniture/metal accessories.	P 7,000.00 to P 70,000.00/unit
VJC(90a1-90a6)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	9 units Edging Machines with table, stand and motor.	P 5,000.00 to P 37,900.00/unit
VJC(90b1-90b7)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	16 units straight sewing machines with table, stand and motor.	P 8,700.00 to P 43,700.00/unit
VJC(90c1-90c3)	La Campana Compound EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	6 units Embroidery sewing machine with table, stand and motor.	P 5,900.00 to P 43,300.00/unit
VJC(90d1-90d6)	La Campana Compound EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	10 units various machineries for garments manufacturing with standard accessories.	P 10,000.00 to P 43,700.00/unit

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from SAM's Acquired Assets Units.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L; and
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V.

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(PDI -- June 8, 2001)

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DR. MODESTO S. TUMANENG

of Laoag City

has peacefully joined his Creator
and his wife ***Purisima***
on June 7, 2001 at the age of 83.

His children **Madeline** and **Pantaleon Pacis, Jr.**, **Hilarion** and **Soledad**, **Lawrence** and **Ma. Rosario**, **William**, **Angelita** and **Jaime Cordero**, **Angelina** and **Rizalino Victorio**, **Humphrey** and **Edna**, **Jeanette** and **Stephen Powers**, **Philomel** and **Agnes**, and **Merribel** and **Renato Villanueva, Jr.**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body now lies in state at the family residence at 78 M. Dizon Street, Laoag City.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory of

ISAGANI G. SAYO, M.D.

on his **First Death Anniversary**
October 21, 1917 —June 9, 2000

Holy Mass will be offered tomorrow, Saturday, June 9, 2001 at the following Churches:

MALATE CATHOLIC CHURCH *Malate, Manila*	6:00 a.m.
MARY THE QUEEN CHURCH *Greenhills, San Juan*	7:00 a.m.
NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUIA CHURCH *Ermita, Manila*	6:30 a.m.
OUR LADY OF BEAUTIFUL LOVE PARISH CHURCH *Merville Park, Parañaque*	6:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH CHURCH *Leveriza, Malate, Manila*	6:00 a.m.
ST. ANTHONY PARISH CHURCH *Singalong, Manila*	6:00 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH CHURCH *Palanan, Makati*	7:00 a.m.
ST. MARTIN DE PORRES PARISH CHURCH *United Hills Village, Parañaque*	6:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH *Intramuros, Manila*	7:00 a.m.
SANTISSIMA TRINIDAD PARISH CHURCH *Singalong, Manila*	6:30 a.m.

The family requests all pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

We know that
God
raised the
Lord Jesus
from
death.
He will
raise us to
life with
Jesus.
He will
present
us, along
with you,
to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

DR. JESUS GATMAITAN HERVAS, JR.

On the 7th day of June 2001, our beloved ***Jojo****, whom God gave to us on 16 December 1959, finally returned to Him to join our Daddy,* ***Atty. Jesus S. Hervas, Sr.***

We, **Atty. Amalia G. Hervas**, mother; **Marilou** and **Marites**, sisters; **Eric** brother-in-law; **Alvin** and **Nikku**, nephews; **Bing**, niece; and **Prosie**, his special friend, request everyone to say a prayer for him in celebration of his new beginning with God.

He is now at Chapel 2-B of Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

GRATA SOTTO SEVILLA

Of Gasan, Marinduque

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 6, 2001 at the age of 92.

Her son Rene (Buds); daughter-in-law Norma, grandchildren Camille, Doni and Rox, Paolo, Cristina, great-grandchild Kokoy, brothers Red, Bini, Igo, sister Betty, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish, La Vista, Quezon City

Interment will be on Sunday, June 10, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish.

CATALINA V. DAMIAN

April 30, 1924 — June 2, 2001

Widow of Felixberto L. Damian

Her loving son Ferdinand V. Damian; daughter-in-law Roxanne D. Damian, grandchildren Kay, Bojie, Banjo, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She was buried on Thursday, June 7, 2001 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery

---

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all eligible bidders to prequalify and to bid for the year 2002 services to wit:

A. PUBLIC BIDDING
  1. Subscription to Local/Int'l Newspapers and Magazines Journals and Reviews
  2. Rental of Shuttle Bus
  3. Housekeeping
  4. HMO
  5. Preventive Maintenance of Computers and Peripherals
  6. Rental of Copier Machines
  7. Canteen Concessioning/Catering
  8. Senate Uniform
  9. Internet Subscription
  10. Timekeeping System

B. SEALED BIDDING
  1. Pest Control
  2. Sanitizers/Deodorizers
  3. Supply of Flowers
  4. Rental of Drinking Fountains
  5. Cooling Tower Water Treatment Program
  6. Supply of Gasoline
  7. Subscription to Cable TV
  8. Garbage Disposal

Prospective bidders for the PUBLIC BIDDING may obtain the prequalification requirements at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City from **13-22 June 2001**. Deadline for the submission of complete and duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **6 July 2001**. Incomplete requirements will not be entertained. The pre-bidding conferences and bidding schedules shall be announced to all prequalified bidders.

All bids under the public bidding category must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price or Php 10,000 **whichever is higher** in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. **Late bids will be rejected.**

Bidders participating in the SEALED BIDDING may secure requirements from the Property and Procurement Services (PPS) located at Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City from **13-22 June 2001**. Schedule of conferences for services under the same category will be announced later including the deadline for the dropping of bids.

Winning bidders from both categories shall post a performance bond in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract price. For prepaid contracts the performance bond shall be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDERS REFUSE TO ACCEPT THEIR AWARD, AND TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN, AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING TO THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 7, 8 & 11, 2001)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-9400 connecting all departments
Fax No. (082) 226-4885

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All interested contractors with category PCAB D and above, and IAC Special Classification on Well Drilling or Water Supply are invited to participate in the bidding for the **EXPLORATORY/WELL DRILLING OF THREE (3) PRODUCTION WELLS**, using Rotary Method, here in Davao City.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of each well, and its location are as follows:

1) Alambre, Lubogan Well - Php 3,527,956.96
2) New Loon, Mintal Well - Php 3,046,942.78
3) Malagos Well (near DCWD reservoir) - Php 3,553,244.42

Pre-C/eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **June 11 to 19, 2001** during its business hours. **Deadline for the submission of Pre-C documents** will be on or before **June 26, 2001. Bidding proper** is scheduled on **August 13, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.**, at the DCWD Board Conference Room.

The DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein, or to award the project to a bid that is considered most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) ENGR. WILFRED G. YAMSON
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committe-B

(PDI – June 8 & 13, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested/prospective bidders to prequalify and bid for the supply and installation of stainless steel railings and stanchion posts with chains for passenger queuing lanes from stations I (North Avenue) to 13 (Taft Avenue) of the Metrostar Express.

Issuance of accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P200.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., June 28, 2001.

Bid documents are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

Only those who are pre-qualified by DOTC-MRT 3 PBAC will be invited to attend a pre-bid conference to be held on July 31, 2001 at the above-stated address.

Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's duly authorized representative who chose to attend at 2:00 p.m. on August 14, 2001 at Operations Space #3 (Conference Room) MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue, cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City.

The DOTC-MRT 3 Office reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MIRANDA
Acting General Manager
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – June 8, 9 & 14, 2001)

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Point to ponder

Q. Which is the correct quote: "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" or "A little learning is a dangerous thing"?

A. "A little *learning* is a dangerous thing" is what English poet-satirist Alexander Pope actually wrote. Here, from part 2 of his *An Essay on Criticism*, published in 1711 though written somewhat earlier, when Pope was just 21 years old, are the lines containing his famous, if often misquoted phrase: *A little learning is a dangerous thing; / Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring: / There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain, / And drinking largely sobers us again.*

Who's No. 1? The countries with the most universities: 1. India - 7,301; 2. United States - 3,559; 3. Mexico - 1,832; 4. Argentina - 1,540; 5. Japan - 1,114; 6. China - 1,075; 7. France - 1,062; 8. Bangladesh - 997; 9. Brazil - 918; 10. Indonesia - 900.

Classified Odd. Acting on a tip that students taking an army entrance examination at Thailand's prestigious Ramkhamhaeng University would be using high-tech cheating devices, Thai police searched more than 10,000 applicants and arrested 75 students whom they found wearing diapers equipped with battery-operated radio receivers. Each reportedly paid the equivalent of nearly P50,000 to have answers transmitted. A year earlier in 1993, university students in India's Bihar State rioted, demanding the right to cheat in their exams. After being denied permission to bring their notes into the testing hall, students set fire to railroad stations, police stations and government buildings before police opened fire, killing one rioter and wounding about a dozen.

WORD WATCH

Kamote: Tagalog slang for 'dimwit,' from the Spanish-Mexican slang *camote*, 'blockhead.'

PDI – June 8, 2001

YOUR CAREER MIGHT ONLY BE A CLICK OF THE MOUSE AWAY.

www.jobmarketonline.com
JOBMARKET ONLINE

Firms spend high on ads but score low on results

By Michelle V. Remo

LORD Leverhulme, founder of global conglomerate Unilever, once said half of his company's ads are wasted. The problem is knowing which half.

Considering that companies resort to advertising to keep and increase their market share, the increasing cost of advertising and its diminishing effectiveness pose real problems.

Darrah Estrada, managing director for Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines, says today's marketing challenges include lower consumer purchasing power, intense price competition, advertising clutter and escalating advertising cost.

Feddie Magpantay, executive director for AC Nielsen Philippines, quotes Unilever founder Lord Leverhulme as saying, "half of our ads are wasted."

The huge advertising expenses that did not result in a significant increase in companies' profits proved this.

Some P61.4 billion was spent on traditional media—television, radio and print—advertising last year alone. For the first quarter of this year, P14.5 billion worth of advertising space and minutes was spent, or an average of P160 million a day.

Given the huge advertising expense, the need to effectively gauge the effectiveness of an advertising campaign has never been more crucial.

Advertisers previously used Usage Attitude and Image Studies (UAI), ad evaluation studies, promo studies, distribution studies and pricing studies to see if their campaigns were effective.

Estrada, however, says these studies "don't allow quick response to market changes and opportunities" because it takes a long time to get the results.

Thus, she introduces the Managed Integrated Research Information and Database method or Miriad in monitoring consumer purchase as related to a product's advertisement.

She says that with the hasty and ever changing ambiance of the market, "business organizations now do continuous market tracking."

She explains that Miriad, as oppose to Dipstick tracks, gather data through actual participation from the consumer through consumer surveys.

Since consumer surveys, which can be conducted on a quarterly basis, release consumer data much faster than the Dipsticks, business organizations can quickly adapt their products or services to the dictates of consumers.

Magpantay, on the other hand, suggests the need for "predictive and not diagnostic models" to prevent spending money on bad advertising.

Since diagnostic models of gauging ad effectiveness only deliver results after an ad has been produced, wastage becomes unavoidable. Thus AC Nielsen, Magpantay says, already offers predictive studies as part of their services.

Magpantay elaborates that AC Nielsen studies predict specific increases in market share in relation to a specified amount of ad spending that a company does for a product or service. Through this, clients will see how much they have to spend on advertising to get the results they want.

Importer says face-to-face talks help sell bath fixtures

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

SELLING complicated household equipment like bathroom fixtures requires more than the traditional means of advertising such as placing ads in newspapers or in architectural magazines.

Companies will not be able to reel the customers in if it sticks to these basic marketing gimmicks because these don't have what is called "instant appeal." The benefits of owning these products have to be explained to convince the potential customer to shell out cash.

Kuysen Bath Gallery at the Home Buddies Section of Glorietta 4 in Makati City, thus, employs field personnel who personally talks to interior designers, architects and real estate developers to share with them the features of its line of bathroom fixtures, particularly the Hansgrohe showers from Germany.

Kuysen's Yasmine Santiago tells the Inquirer that they have six field people who are in charge of getting sales from commercial developments such as hotels and condominium projects.

"We introduce our products to them and then we get referrals from them because they have their own contacts," Santiago says.

Kuysen has used this sales tactic for the past 10 years, until July 1999 when it decided to put up a showroom in Glorietta 4 to penetrate the retail market. Its previous shop was at Rizal Avenue.

"The showroom works because they can see the different looks of our bathroom equipment and our other products like industrial lights and gypsum boards, bathtubs, kitchen sinks, water heaters and ceramic fixtures," Santiago says.

Santiago, however, says they consider the unique line of products as the biggest come-on to retail and commercial customers. One of its flagship products is the Hansgrohe hand shower with its four spray modes to ease tired muscles.

The four spray modes of the top-of-the-line shower head are normal, soft spray for shampooing, massage spray to massage tense muscles, and mono spray for water therapy as inspired by old Chinese medicine.

These hand shower heads don't come cheap. The top-of-the-line model with four spray modes costs a cool P7,000 for the shower head alone. The best seller is the Mistral Echo model with its normal and massage spray modes. It costs P6,000 for the entire shower mechanism.

"We encourage customers to try our showers by also offering a lifetime free service guarantee for the showers. We also help in the installation to make sure that the shower heads are properly installed by the plumbers," Santiago says.

She adds that Kuysen has beefed up the technical personnel to ensure adequate after sales service to the customers.

"This is one are where we are very serious about. We offer the lifetime guarantee on all the Hansgrohe new generation showers," Santiago says.

Santiago adds that they also provide consultation on showers even if the client did not buy it from them. It is another way, she says, of building relationships with clients.

Gold polishes tarnished image with ads

LONDON—Plagued by two decades of falling prices of gold, world gold producers are planning a multimillion dollar advertising campaign aimed at ridding gold of its playboy image and restoring some glitter to the tarnished metal.

In the most expensive marketing campaign of its 14-year history, the World Gold Council (WGC) will spend $55 million (65 million euros) over the next year in a bid to raise demand by 50 percent over five years.

Under the slogan "glow with gold," the campaign, designed by advertising agency Bartle Bogle Hegarty, will focus on the "warmth, sensuality, spirituality and historical significance associated with gold."

The marketing blitz will be launched Saturday in the International Herald Tribune, timed to coincide with a trade fair in Vicenza, Italy, but will not reach full swing until later in the year in time for the peak pre-Christmas sales period.

The Wolff Olins brand consultancy has come up with a brandmark to replace the old infinity logo with a new gold mark of three concentric circles, used by ancient alchemists to symbolize gold.

"The positioning is about connection and about consumers connecting to their deeper emotional side and to significant moments in their lives," said WGC global marketing manager Michael Pace.

"In the 1970s and '80s, a lot of people were interested in showing they'd made it and showing they were wealthy by putting on possibly excessive amounts of gold," Pace said.

"Gold isn't just about adornment. It's about a deeper, inner feeling of confidence and positivity that is created when consumers wear gold.

"It's not just about impressing other people. It's about feeling good wearing it."

One advert will show an image of a mother and child, with the word "warm" written on it, contrasting against another picture of a chic model.

"What we're trying to do is challenge consumers and say 'which sort of world would you rather live in?'," said Pace.

"Do you want to live in this cool, chic minimalist world or do you want to live in one that is about warmth and about emotions and interacting with other people?

"That second world is the world that we're trying to get gold to inhabit."

Cut through the PR speak and what you have is an expensive campaign by gold producers hoping to rescue prices from the doldrums.

Though gold prices have regained a little of their luster in recent weeks, the current gold price of about $260-$270 an ounce is a far cry from the heyday of the 1980s, when an ounce of gold cost as much as $850.

But the slide in gold prices owes less to the metal's tarnished image as a fashion accessory and more to the slump in investment demand.

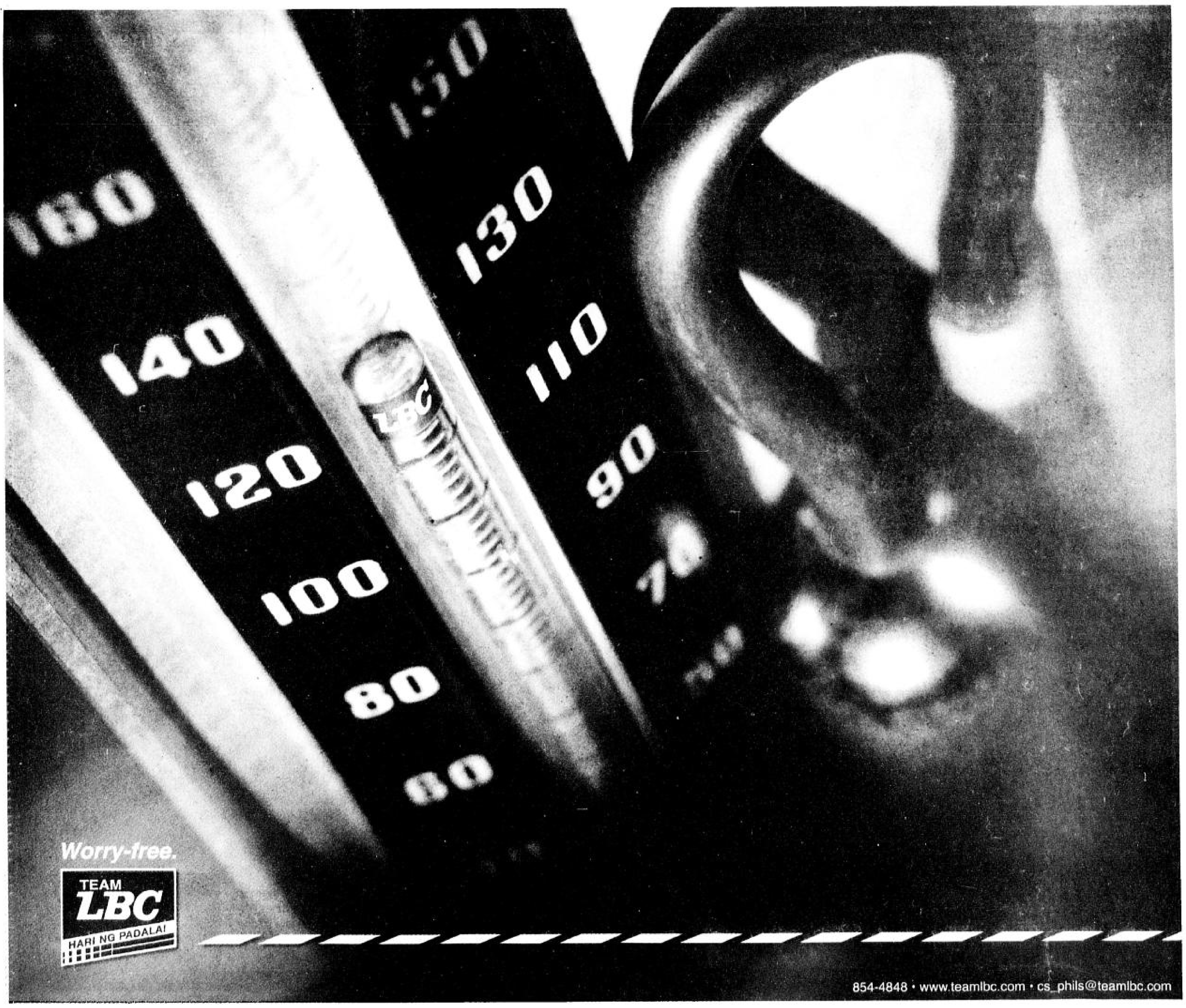
Recent years have witnessed a new gold rush—a rush to sell gold—culminating in huge auction programs by major central banks such as the Bank of England.

While demand for gold for use in jewelry grew by an annual rate of 6 percent in the first quarter of 2001, investment demand fell 3 percent from the previous year.

Gold producers are thus pinning their hopes on rising demand in the jewelry market.

The Chinese believed gold was the yang of the sun to the moon's yin. The Incas called gold the sweat of the sun.

But unless producers can persuade today's consumers to "glow with gold," the precious metal could be set for meltdown. *AFP*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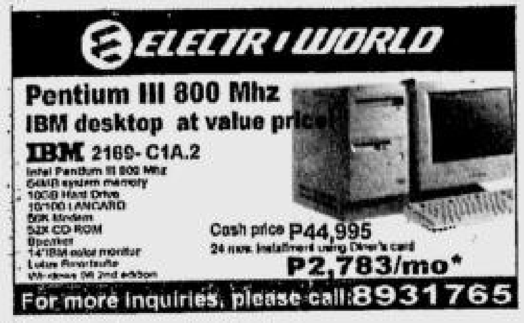
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BUSINESS Friday
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Calling all entrepreneurs, 200 US firms want you

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THERE may be an economic slowdown in the country, but this is not stopping around 200 US-based companies from wanting to do business here.

From candles to air deodorizers to fine china used aboard the Air Force One, name it, and they all want to either directly sell their products here through distributors and sales agents or go into partnerships with local companies.

To make life easier for these companies, the United States Commercial Service of the US Department of Commerce offers a catalpg exhibition program as well as other low-cost advertising schemes to promote US exports worldwide.

One such aid is the commercial library on the 25th floor of the Ayala Life/FGU Center right in the heart of the Makati business district.

Its walls are lined with shelves containing resource materials that could guide prospective partners in making their business decisions, different journals and periodicals that keep readers abreast with the latest in US trade, and reference sources on US export-import regulations, tariff codes and foreign trade statistics.

For a minimal fee, one can also access the Internet and browse through directories-on-line that provide listings of products and services that the US is offering.

INLINE Plastics makes crystal clear containers for packaging needs.

PICKARD china was used aboard Air Force One.

But the library's main features are the different catalogs and brochures lined up on one side of the room featuring all sorts of American goods and services.

"We provide a low-cost avenue for American companies to test a market," American Embassy commercial officer Val Huston says.

For an annual, renewable fee of only $300, companies will have their product catalogs, brochures and product samples displayed in the library. They also get to be showcased in different trade shows all over the country. Their products will also get exposure in Cebu and Davao.

George F. Ruffner, US counselor for commercial affairs, tells the INQUIRER that they decided to reach out to areas outside Metro Manila because there is a huge market in Visayas and Mindanao. It is easier, he says, to bring the catalogs there instead of encouraging prospective business partners to Manila.

"We did one of our programs in Cebu and Davao last September and it was very interesting. There were over 200 participants and they were all interested in expanding to Cebu and Davao," Ruffner adds.

These companies also get to be featured in Commercial News USA, a monthly newsletter distributed to over 600 clients, mostly trading companies, in the Philippines. Its total circulation adds up to around a million worldwide.

This service is geared more toward small to medium-sized enterprises, although the US Commercial Service also does advocacy campaigns for big companies.

"But we don't expect IBM to send us their catalogs. They would want to advertise big time," Huston says.

The library has a success rate of 80 deals a year based on formal signings, agent-distributor agreements and sales of products in the country, he adds.

Here are some of the companies featured in the library:

Candle Lamp Co.

This 25-year-old, California-based company provides the foodservice industry with table lamps, candles and food warming products like chafing dishes and butane stoves, as well as fuel for these food warming equipment.

It has manufacturing centers in California and Mexico, regional sales offices in Illinois, Kentucky and California, and a distribution office in Tennessee.

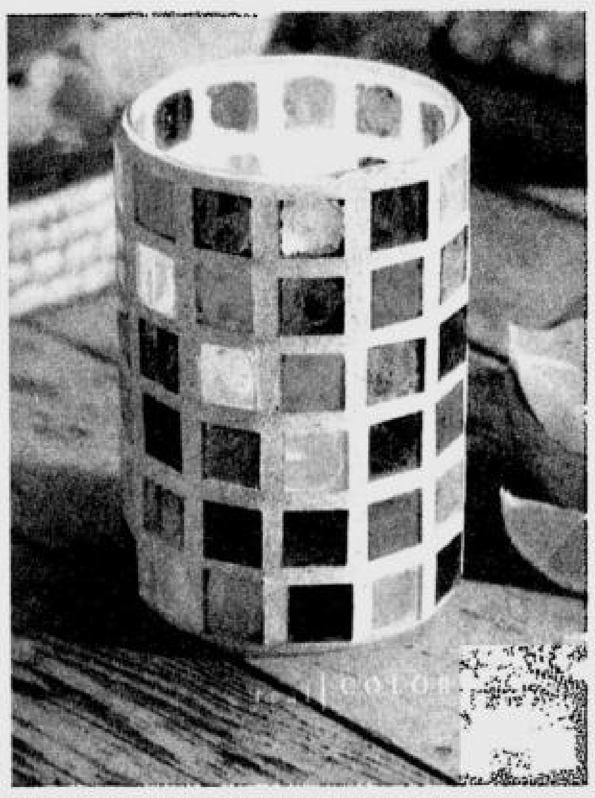
It wants to penetrate the Philippine market through sales agents and distributors.

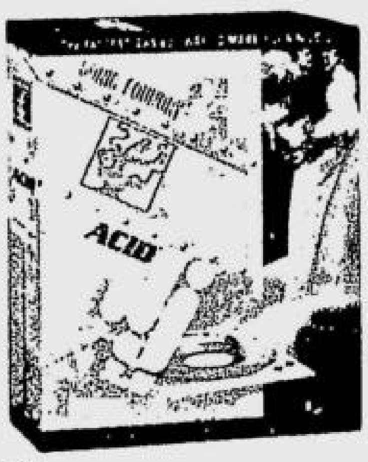
Desert Health Products Inc.

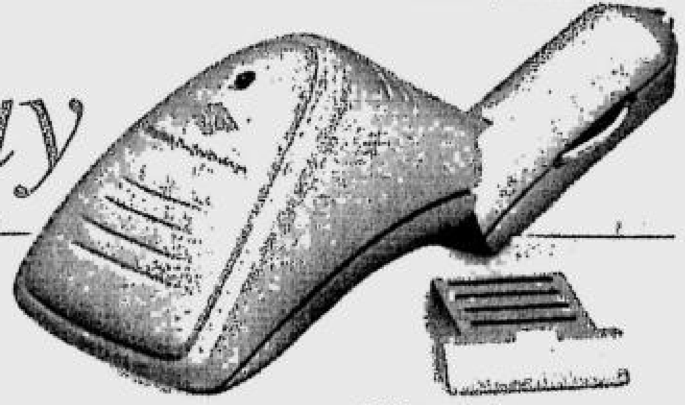
Based in Arizona, this company already has product registrations in over 30 countries worldwide, but it still wants to get into the Philippine market through sales representatives or joint ventures.

It specializes on herbal supplements, weight management products, vitamin and mineral supplements, as well as skin care products and products designed especially for women.

It also makes pet care products, water purification systems, and Ayurvedic products that combines India's traditional holistic approach to healing with today's scientific advancements.


CANDLE Lamp Co. is looking for agents.


SONIC makes life easier for music lovers.


SILA wants to introduce new products, like this auto air purifier.

Inline Plastics Corp.

Already 33 years in the business, this company boasts of manufacturing high-quality, crystal-clear OPS and PETE clamshell packaging designed specially for bakeries, delis and other foodservice applications.

This Connecticut-based company started from the basement of a family home, but is now an international company with 550 employees in the US and Europe. It plans to extend its business to Asia.

Lentek International Inc.

This Florida-based company carries the Sila product line named after the divine ruler of the Eskimo.

Its product specialties are air purifiers and deodorizers for the room, trash, refrigerator and laundry hamper as well as environmentally safe pest control products designed to provide chemical-free protection against mice, rats, roaches, spiders, crickets and many other pests.

Lentek seeks sales representation or distributorship in the country.

Pickard

No less than former Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton ate using Pickard's fine chinaware. These plates were the ones used aboard Air Force One during the past two regimes.

Its products range from simple yet elegant dinner sets to 24k gold-framed plates, cups and dessert bowls.

Sonic Foundry Inc.

This software company based in Wisconsin makes life easier for music lovers. Its Acid product line allows music enthusiasts to make their own hip-hop, DJ and rock mp3s. Rapper Ice T even called it "the definitive tool for making hip-hop tracks from here to the year 3G."

Its Siren line, on the other hand, combines downloading, organizing, mixing, mastering and transporting music all in one application.

Sonic Foundry aims to market their products in the country either through direct selling or sales distributorship.

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LEA Salonga wears the popular wrap blouse in cotton twill.

Bayo keeps competition at bay

The womenswear voted by a fashion magazine as the best local brand is polishing its act even more by snagging Lea Salonga as its image model

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

IS an award an indication of success? Not necessarily. Although Bayo has never merited trophies or plaques for being the best in retail or marketing, the owners are happy that the customers are content. A survey conducted by a fashion magazine showed that Bayo is the best local brand as far as its readers are concerned.

Bayo belongs to the breed of young entrepreneurs that have made an impact on ready-to-wear. Back in the late '80s and early '90s, a group of young entrepreneurs, albeit fresh graduates, established modest garments businesses. The funding usually came from parents and bank loans.

It was right timing because malls were sprouting and they were looking for tenants. The rise of malls actually helped perpetuate the ready-to-wear industry. With an exorbitant dollar exchange rate, prices of imported clothes intimidated the middle-class market; local brands offered an alternative.

Instead of relying on press releases, these brands became known by word of mouth. They concentrated on product development and raked in millions. After a decade now, they've become bullish, as shown by advertising in print and billboards.

One of these brands is Bayo, an Ilonggo word for clothes. Corazon "Corcor" Dizon-Bitong and her sister Diana Lyn Dizon-Agustin were fresh college graduates and needed work when they stumbled on the idea. None of them had background in sewing, design or patternmaking. Corcor was a marketing management major while Lyn took up psychology and management.

In1989, they started making clothes by trial and error. The operation was so typical of a backyard business—designs were culled from magazines or from clothes brought abroad and were analyzed for their patterns. They set up a store on a modest 20-sq-m space in Shoppesville, featuring feminine styles. The place was an in-

BAYO/p.C6

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The case for men's skin care

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

SKIN care is as invigorating as a cool experience. A Clinique beauty consultant shows executive Leo Daez how to use the men's soap.

BEYOND SHAVING his face, man rarely spends much time doting on his skin. This is unfortunate because the skin is the body's first line of defense against germs and disease; it is the largest organ and serves as a barrier between the environment and the internal organs. Sometimes the skin is sabotaged by too much sun, smoking, stress and late nights. The accumulative effects are loss of elasticity, discoloration, sagging muscles and wrinkles. If the skin is dry and cracked, or has blemishes, the openings allow the environment to get inside, with dire effects over the long term.

Men and women's skin is similar in structure although men tend to have more hair and increased oil production. Their skin is thicker because it has more fibers to protect it. The production of male hormones called androgen continues until late adulthood, which explains oily skin.

Collagen breakdown

As the skin ages, the production of collagen, a vital component of the skin's support system slackens. Environment changes also cause collagen breakdown. Without adequate collagen stores, the skin sags. Its capacity for repair will be weakened, resulting in fine lines.

Men should realize that proper skin care is not a sissy ritual that takes a lot of time. A couple of minutes a day are all that is needed. Men have specific skin-care needs, especially from skin rash. Many still use alkaline cleansers or soaps, causing loss of balance in the skin, then put on astringent aftershave.

Manufacturers espouse that aside from the shaving cream, a man needs the same products for healthy skin such as the cleanser, toner, day and night cream. There are products for men such as moisturizers that help slough off dead skin, smoothing skin for a smooth shave. Eye treatments diminish eyebags, wrinkles and dark circles. Anti-aging formulas reduce the appearance of fine lines, even out skin tone and prevent further skin damage.

Cleanse the face, ears and neck. Shave with the usual shaving products, followed by a scruffing lotion that removes dead flakes from the skin and helps the skin renew itself faster. It also helps to control excess oil; lessens the chance of pore-clogging trouble spots and aids in the absorption of moisturizers.

MEN need anti-aging lotions that also condition the skin for a smooth shave.

Shaving counsel

For shaving, use a face scrub that prepares the skin. It helps exfoliate dead skin flakes, excessive oil and surface dirt and lifts ingrown hairs by chemical and manual exfoliation action. Oily skins can benefit from oil-free shaving gels. For dry skin, the cream shave contains beard primers, emollients and skin soothers that soften and lift hair to let the razor to glide, not drag along the skin, making it suitable for sensitive skin. The emollients hold moisture to beard, leaving the skin feeling slick. Always rinse the blade under warm water.

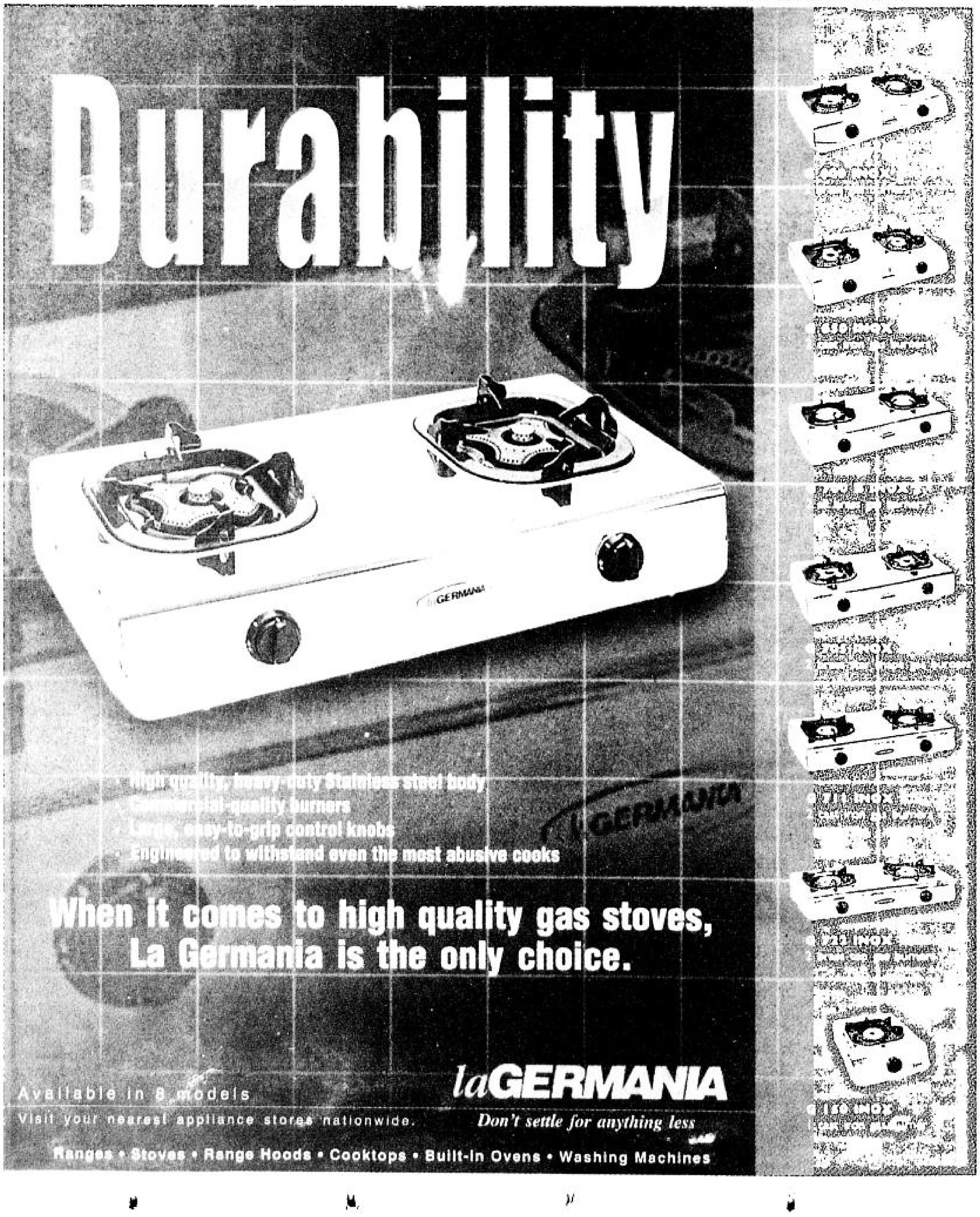
Father's Day and Christmas are the sales spikes in promoting men's grooming products. If a man wants to know about skin care, he can always approach the counters for a free consultation. If the customer trusts the consultant he's buying from, he'll most likely be a convert to a recommended brand.

SCRUFFING lotion removes dead flakes from the skin's surface and helps the skin renew itself.

LOCATION: BELEN KING'S RESIDENCE
CLINIQUE IS AVAILABLE AT RUSTAN'S

It's not sissy for men to take care of their skin. Like women, men are prone to skin breakdown

MEN should wash the face using a mild facial soap, remove the residue with a toner or scruffing lotion and a treatment that evens out the skin tone and helps reduce the appearance of fine lines and past sun damage.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Bodyshots UK winners to join Philippine tilt on June 30

PRODUCED by the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP), the Bodyshots contest will be held on June 30, 8 p.m. at the UP Theater, Diliman, QC. Joining the event are winners from the United Kingdom.

The Bodyshots UK 2001 contest was held Feb. 25 at the Hammersmith Palais. With the three-week schedule of rehearsals and workshops, it fostered camaraderie and one dream: to visit the Philippines and discover their heritage.

Guest of honor Ambassador Cesar B. Bautista said, "The contest offers opportunities for young Filipino-British youth in modeling, film and television in the Philippines. Last year, Philippine garment exports to the UK alone increased by 25 percent, which is why Bodyshots UK is a very apt marketing vehicle for our world-class designers to show the UK and the world at large what the Philippines can offer."

Bodyshots UK 2001 was directed by George Sales and hosted by Nigel Vernon-Dier and Collette Centeno-Glazier. The board of judges included Barry Silkman, agent for football players, singers and models; Tim Hitchin and Andrew Douglas from Channel 4's "Shipwreck 2"; GWR Radio presenter John Criff; San Diego, Vasquez and Joyce Peña, former model and current Mrs. Philippines-Germany.

Special awards were given to Atan Lee Odle and Debbie Blackwell (Best in Filipiniana Attire), Jamie Manuel and Lawrence Cheah (Best in Casual Wear), Rhoda Natividad and Jordan Rodriguez (Mr. and Ms Charity), Jordan Rodriguez (Best in Formal Wear). Second runners-up were Samantha Hall (Best in Formal Wear) and Thomas Duffy (Best in Swimsuit); first runners-up were Natalie Stokes (Best in Swimsuit) and Paul Hammond (Most Photogenic).

The overall winners of Bodyshots UK 2001 were Paula White and Luke Mucklin. Paula also received Miss Friendship and Most Photogenic awards. Both Paula and Luke also received the Vasquez Look Award.

PAULA White—Ms Bodyshots UK 2001 winner

LUKE Mucklin—Mr. Bodyshots UK 2001 winner

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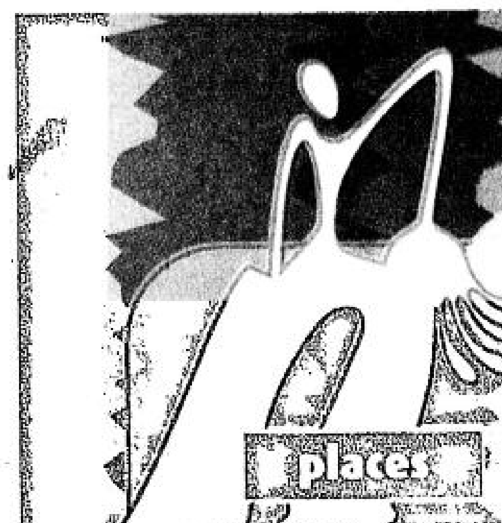
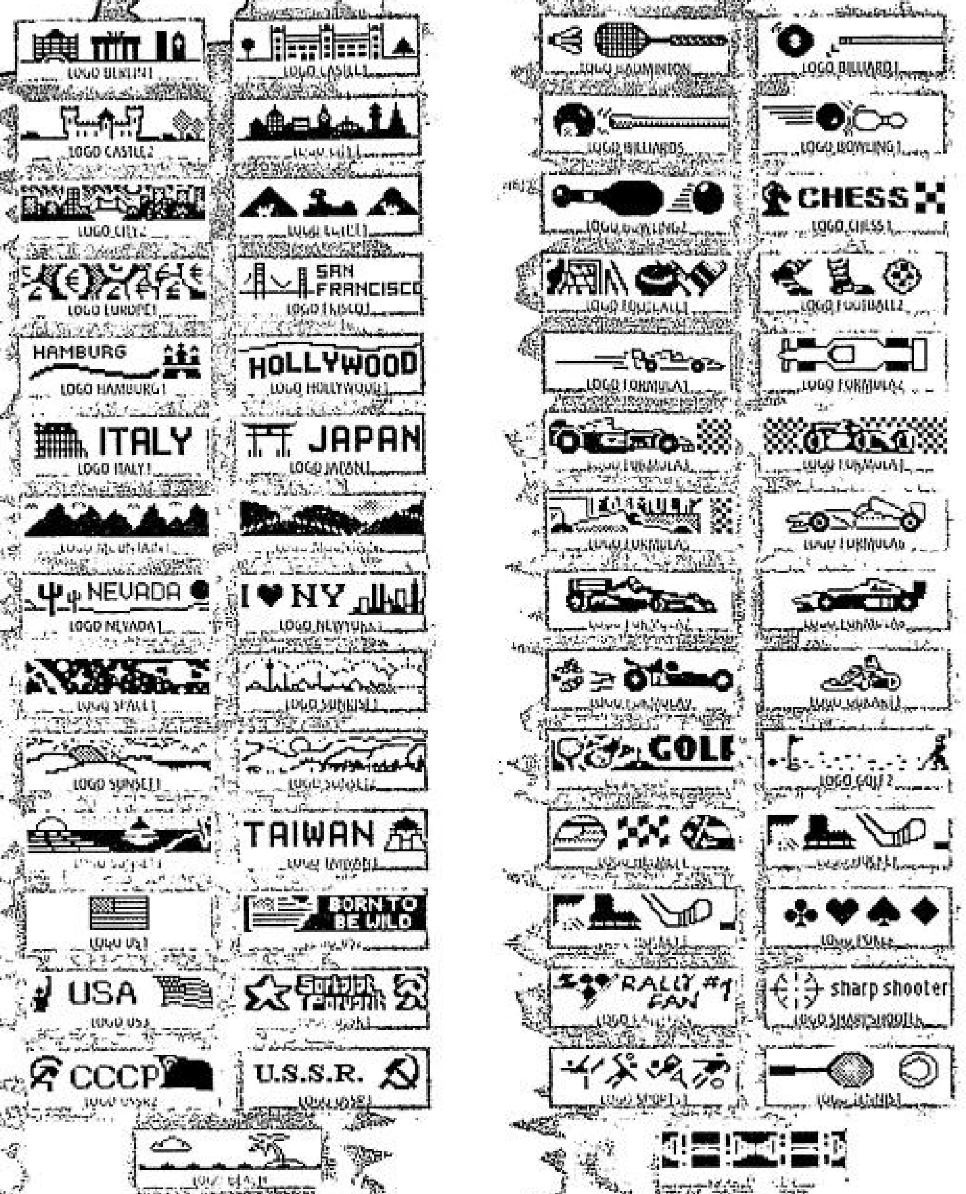
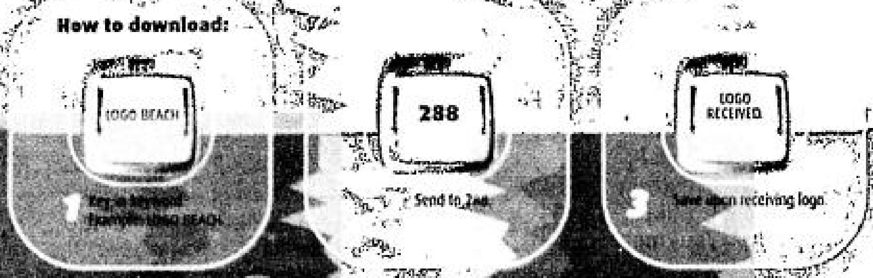


logos

places · sports


LOGO BERLIN1
LOGO CASTLE1
LOGO CASTLE2
LOGO CITY2
LOGO EUROPE1
SAN FRANCISCO
LOGO FRISCO1
HAMBURG
LOGO HAMBURG1
HOLLYWOOD
LOGO HOLLYWOOD1
ITALY
LOGO ITALY1
JAPAN
LOGO JAPAN1
NEVADA
LOGO NEVADA1
I ♥ NY
LOGO NEWYORK1
LOGO SUNSET1
TAIWAN
BORN TO BE WILD
LOGO USA1
USA
LOGO USA2
CCCP
U.S.S.R.
LOGO BEACH
LOGO BADMINTON
LOGO BILLIARD1
LOGO BILLIARDS
LOGO BOWLING1
LOGO BOWLING2
CHESS
LOGO CHESS1
LOGO FOOTBALL1
LOGO FOOTBALL2
LOGO FORMULA1
LOGO FORMULA2
GOLF
LOGO GOLF2
RALLY FAN #1
sharp shooter
LOGO SPORTS1
LOGO TENNIS1

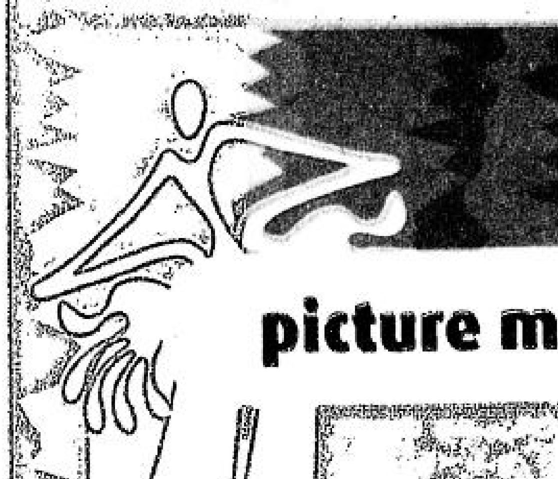
How to download:


LOGO BEACH
288
LOGO RECEIVED

1 Key-in keyword Example: LOGO BEACH.

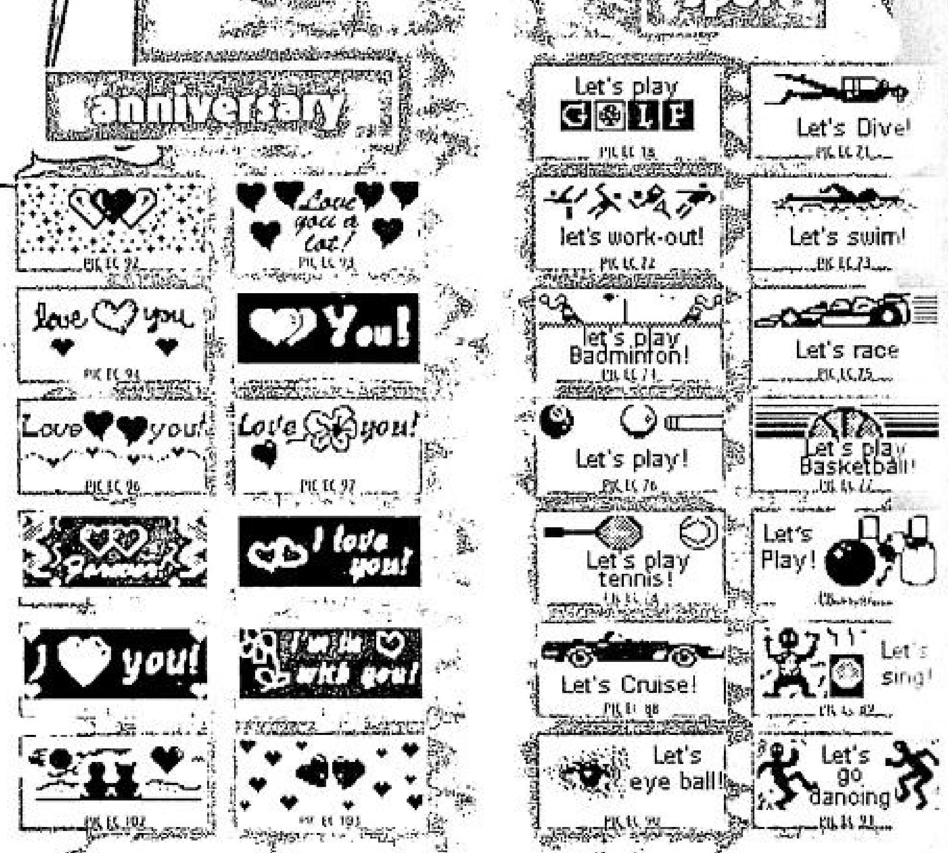
Send to 288.

3 Save upon receiving logo.

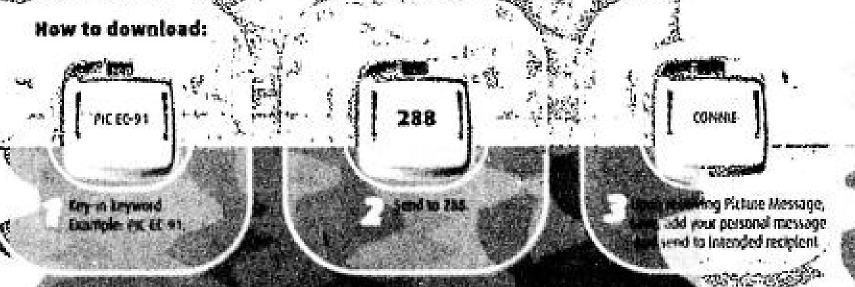


picture messages

anniversary · sport


PIC EC 92
Love you a lot!
PIC EC 93
love you
PIC EC 94
You!
Love you!
PIC EC 96
Love you!
PIC EC 97
I love you!
you!
I'm with you!
PIC EC 102
PIC EC 103
Let's play GOLF
PIC EC 18
Let's Dive!
let's work-out!
PIC EC 72
Let's swim!
PIC EC 73
Let's play Badminton!
Let's race
PIC EC 75
Let's play!
PIC EC 76
Let's play Basketball!
Let's play tennis!
Let's Play!
Let's Cruise!
Let's sing!
Let's eye ball!
Let's go dancing

How to download:


PIC EC-91
288
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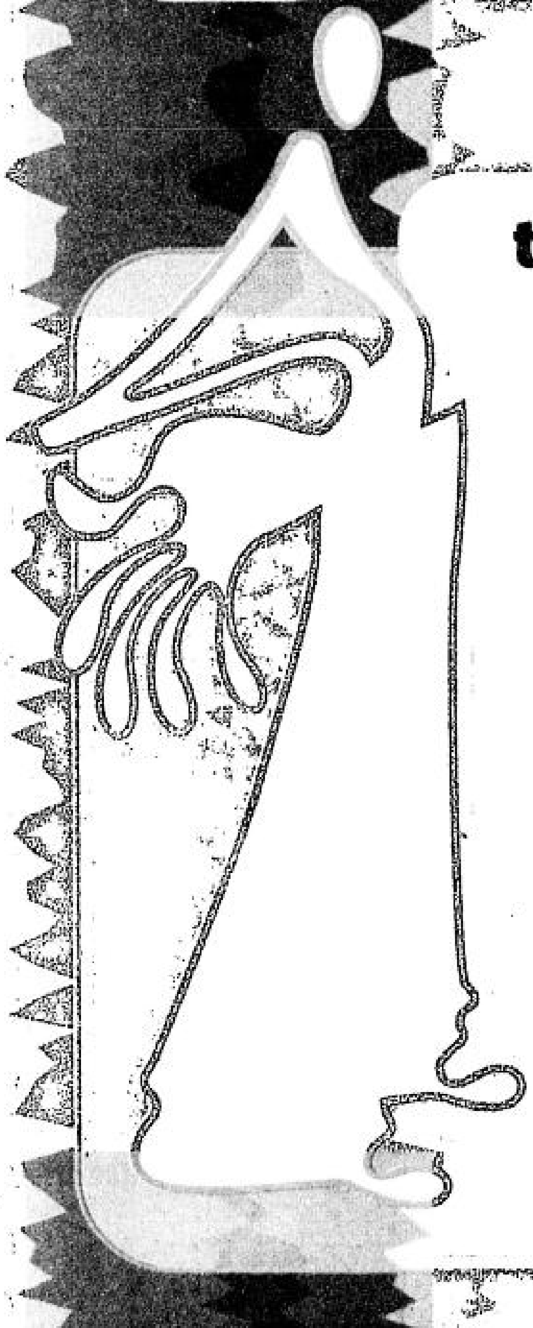
2 Send to 288.

3 Upon receiving Picture Message, [illegible] add your personal message [illegible] send to intended recipient.



tones

rock

description	artist/composer	keyword
All Star	Smashmouth	TONE ALLSTAR
Black Dog	Led Zeppelin	TONE BLACKDOG
Head Over Heels	Tears For Fears	TONE HEDOVRHIL
Hotel California	Eagles	TONE HOTELCALI
Iris	Googoo Dolls	TONE IRIS
Jump	Van Halen	TONE JUMP
Layla	Eric Clapton	TONE LAYLA
Losing My Religion	REM	TONE LOSINMY
Love Potion No.9	Jed Leiber	TONE LUVPOTION
Other Side	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE ODERSYD
Someday	Sugar Ray	TONE SUMDAY
Strange Love	Depeche Mode	TONE STRNGELV
The Final Countdown	Europe	TONE FINALCNT
Turning Japanese	Vapors	TONE JAPANIS
Under The Bridge	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE UNDRBRDG
Whole Lotta Love	Led Zeppelin	TONE WHOLAATALUV

movie

description	artist/composer	keyword
Addams Family Theme	Mike Post	TONE ADDAMS
Animal Song	Savage Garden	TONE ANIMAL
Duel Of the Fates	Star Wars Episode 1	TONE EPISODE1
Dying Young	James Newton Howard	TONE DIEYOUNG
Godfather Theme	N. Rota	TONE GODFATHER
I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing	Mett Serlitia	TONE MISATING
I Say A Little Prayer	My Best Friend's Wedding	TONE SAYALIL
Rocky Theme	Carol Connors	TONE ROCKY
Star Wars 3 Theme	John Williams	TONE STRWARS3
Superman Theme	Leon Klatskin	TONE SUPERMAN
The Imperial March	The Empire Strikes Back	TONE IMPERIAL
Under The Sea	Little Mermaid	TONE UNDERSEA
Xmen Theme		TONE XMEN

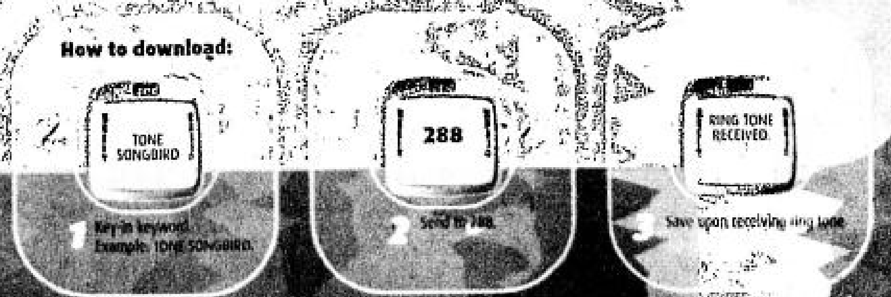
TV

description	artist/composer	keyword
Ally McBeal Theme	Vonda Shepard	TONE ALLMYC
Babylon 5 Theme	TV Cue	TONE BABYLON5
Batman Theme	Danny Elfman	TONE BATMAN
Dallas (TV Cue)	Stephen Inmel	TONE DALLAS
Doogie Howser Theme		TONE DOOGIE
Flintstone (TV Cue)	TV Cue	TONE FLINSTO
Jeopardy Theme	Merv Griffin	TONE JEPRDY
Scooby Doo Theme	Joseph Barbera	TONE SCOOBY
Simpsons Theme	Danny Elfman	TONE SIMPSONS

special

description	artist/composer	keyword
Fiddler On The Roof	Harnick	TONE FIDDLER
Birdland	Joseph Zawinul	TONE BIRDLAND
Songbird	Kenny G	TONE SONGBIRD

How to download:


TONE SONGBIRD
288
RING TONE RECEIVED

1 Key-in keyword. Example: TONE SONGBIRD.

2 Send to 288.

3 Save upon receiving ring tone.

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Heavy Traffic

The newest shoe boutique in Power Plant Mall is a traffic of footwear styles and trends

FASHIONABLE thong

LEWRE made of calfskin leather

By Camille T. Cruz
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by James Reyes

TRAFFIC is welcome. We mean the store at Power Plant Mall where comfortable shoes can fit your soles and lifestyle. It has everything—from "chunky" soles to the classic, not-so-pointed toed shoes; from the basic tones of black and brown to the more unorthodox colors.

For the expose-your-toes kind of men, there are plenty to choose from.

Step-ins, double-strapped or slipper-sandals will come in handy for the more adventurous.

Most of the available merchandise"are from Malaysia, Italy and Spain—a wide geographical reach.

When everyday classic attire calls for a perfect footwear match, get lost in Traffic.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

MODEL: JAY ESTEBAN OF CAL CARRIE ·
STORE LOCATIONS:
POWER PLANT MALL 898-1394, VIRRA MALL 721-1012,
ALABANG TOWN CENTER 850-5864

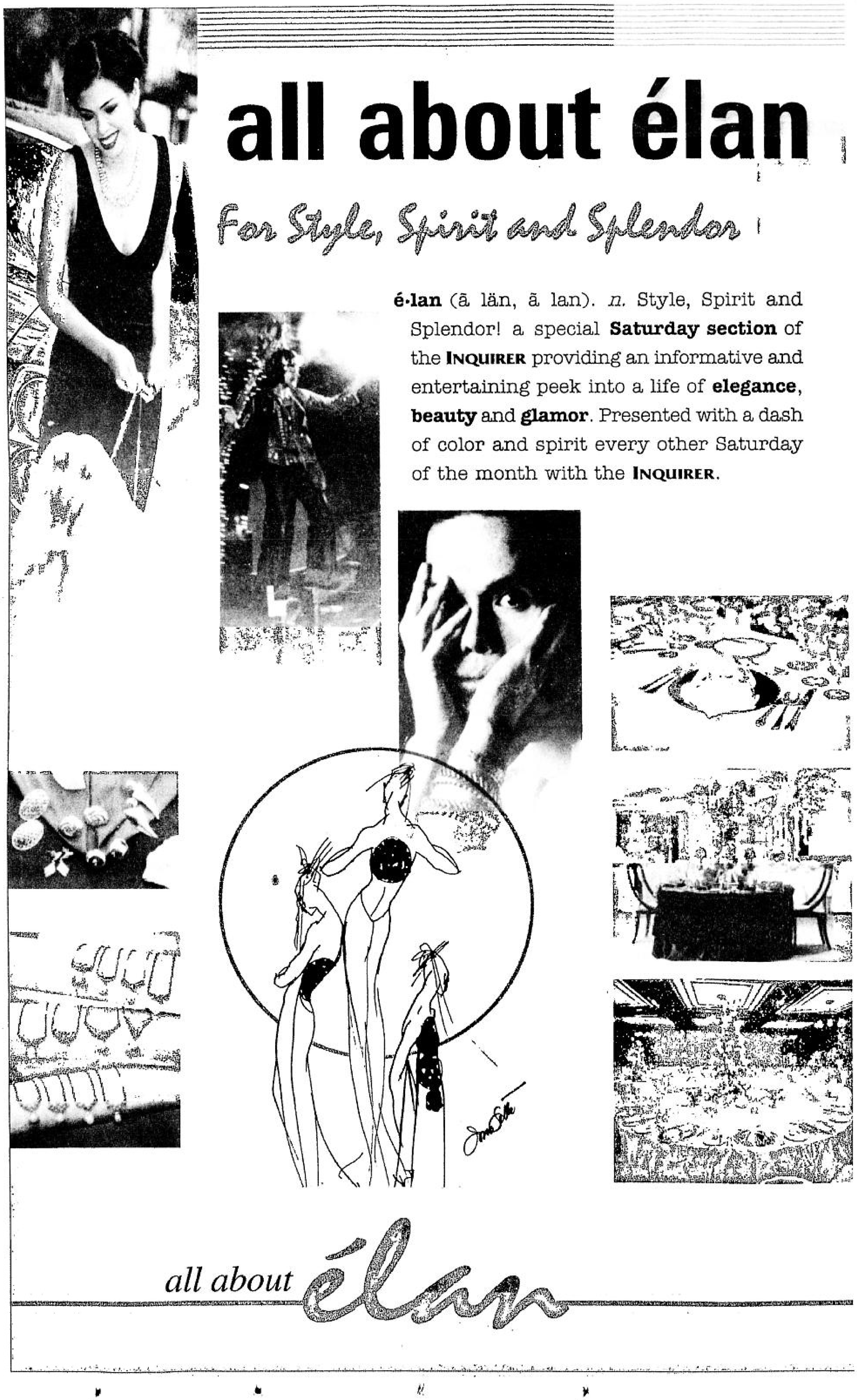
For the dandy male

BUSINESS wear has never been this good. Versace Classic V2 men's suits can take you to corporate functions, power lunches and after-work cocktails in a breeze. Plain, plaid or striped, in timeless black, blue, white and beige—choose the color and style that best suits you. Wear these with appropriate long-sleeved shirts for formal occasions or open a button or two for a more relaxed look—either way, they're great. There are also suits and trousers in bolder colors for the more daring dresser.

Versace Classic V2 also has casual pieces like printed red and green shirts and comfortable pants that are perfect for lounging out. Even in easy pieces such as these, you'll find that Versace touch that makes the wearer stand out, anytime, anywhere.

The Versace Classic V2 collection is exclusively distributed by Linea Italia Group (Versace Jeans Couture, Greenbelt; Linea Italia 6750; Uomo To, Greenbelt and Cebu; Prima Linea, Megamall; Viva Capolinea, Cebu).

THE CLASSIC dark suit is perked up by a bright red tie.



all about élan

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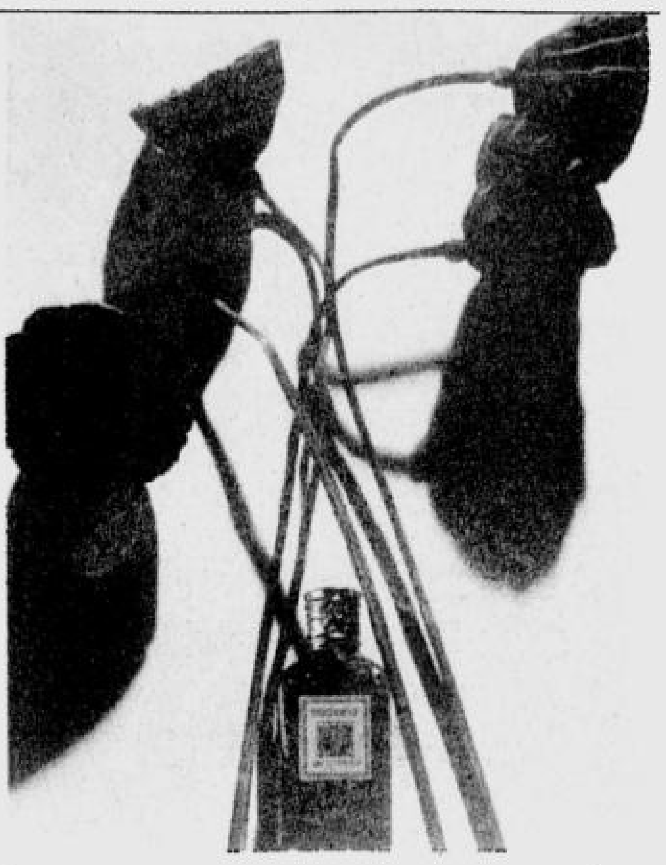
all about élan

Etro perfumes get personal

By Harriet Ann Dy

The Italian fashion house's fragrance range is exotic and encourages users to mix scents for a personalized smell



TWO views of the Etro Campaign showing that the perfume collection arose from a powerful passion for natural essences and fragrances.

ALL SCENTS are not created equal; nevertheless, the nose can't help but be confused by the similarities of scents flooding the market today. This is because perfumes have become the ultimate marketing weapon to introduce a luxury brand to an aspiring market. They literally afford consumers a whiff of luxury and the fleeting, if temporary, feeling of wealth and success.

Not always, says Luisella Tepatti, general manager of Etro's fragrance and accessory division. The lithe and chic Italian executive was recently in town to introduce the company's exclusive, decade-old fragrance collection that will soon be available at Rustan's Makati.

"Fragrances are very important to the image of a brand," she says. "They can be used to underline the selectiveness and quality of a brand and can be very dangerous marketing weapons."

Especially for a niche luxury brand like Etro. Founded almost three decades ago by Gimmo Etro, the family-owned company started out as a textile firm that supplied fabrics to major fashion houses like Armani, Valentino, Max Mara and Versace.

In 1981, the company expanded to include furnishing fabrics, creating a rich clay-colored, Oriental-inspired paisley motif that has become synonymous with the brand today.

Complementary fragrance

Furnishing and fashion accessories followed. Eight years later, Tepatti became part of the team that gave birth to Etro's exclusive fragrance range.

However, unlike other luxury houses that proffer perfume licenses to interested franchisees, Etro opted to create its own scents.

"We were not interested in a huge business but in creating a special fragrance to complement our products," says Tepatti.

The 10 fragrances—five eau de colognes and five eau de toilettes—do just that: replicate the lushness of Etro's rich, Far Eastern-inspired creations in solid, squarish 100-ml bottles.

The company uses natural bases, which accounts for the pure, earthy smells of vetiver, heliotrope, sandal and patchouli. They hark back to an era when strong scents like Opium, Dior's Poison and Joy by Jean Patou were favorites on the fragrance counters. Even the light Lemon Sorbet is tangy and not watery as many perfumes are wont to smell these days.

"It appeals to the consumer who is most attentive to her personal needs," says Teppatti. And sophisticated, too. At a time when aromatherapy was still unheard of, Etro's fragrances uplift the well-being as well.

Unisex

As unisex scents reinterpret the meaning of fresh in various ways today, the company's eau de colognes promise a confident purity; their eau de toilettes Scheherazade fantasies (with names like Shaal Nur, Royal Pavilion and Palais Jamais, no less). The fragrances are mixed in a way in which consumers are strongly encouraged to mix the scents for a personalized smell. "People today want to develop their personalities, and fragrances are way of doing so," she says. Consistent bestsellers include Etro Etra, Vicolo Fiori (named after the street where Mr. Etro opened his first store on the ancient side of Milan) and Lemon Sorbet.

Though the fragrance line is far from a mass-market endeavor, sales have been growing at the rate of 15 percent a year with Italy still its strongest market. As a whole, however, Etro sells 70 percent of its products on the export market in Asia, with headquarters in Japan.

"We really encourage our customers to be modern and traditional at the same time," says Tepatti.

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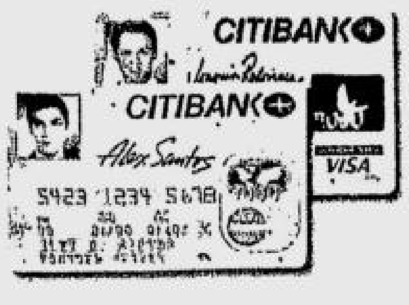

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CITIBANK

THE ARGYLE twinset reflects the revival of the Preppie Look.

WEARING a black denim outfit on the steps of a brownstone building near Park Avenue.

Bayo keeps competition at bay

(From page C1)

stant hit and so they started to need bigger store space.

Lyncor Inc. became a formal family business in 1991, led by its president, Ferdinand Agustin, Lyn's husband. Corcor is the vice president for store operations and marketing and promotions while Lyn is vice president for product development. Cor's husband, Camilo Bitong, is the treasurer. The family setup has worked well for them since they share the same ideals. Nobody oversteps his or her boundary and they agree on compromises.

Smashing beginning

Bayo opened a 15-sq-m space at Greenbelt Shopping Plaza. The T-shirts with gold buttons, shorts and separates made from cottons and linens were sellouts. Bayo made its first million in gross sales in 1992. The sales grew by 137 percent compared with 1991. Even if Bayo was hidden in a corner, customers came all the way to seek them out. When athlete Bea Lucero became their image model, SM invited them to join.

Bayo positions itself as a youth-oriented store. It offers the types of clothes kids wear to school, which explains May and June as busy months in sales. According to its survey, majority of its clients ranges from 18-30 years old, and mostly 23-25. Yet it also attracts mature clients, as old as 56 years old. The clothes are affordable. The T-shirts are as low as P295 and dresses go for P1,000.

Over the years, the youths have become more daring that they seek cutting-edge clothes. On the other hand, Bayo's market prefers classic styles such as the wraps, the Preppie Look and the basic separates. When the glossy magazines heralded the comeback of the denim jacket, this item just flew off the racks.

Right now the racks are filled with the season's trend of black and white and beige. For the rainy season, Bayo offers jackets and twinsets. Even if the twinset is no longer the rage, the style still sells very well. The twinset is easy to wear and modest as it hides figure flaws.

The clothes are factory-made. It can be burdensome to cope with rising overhead expenses and maintaining the product facility, especially in the low season. Bayo has been subcontracting to local and foreign factories. Knits are made in Hong Kong.

LEA relaxes in a corduroy jacket and jeans.

SHOT in Greenwich Village

Accessories, shoes and bags are sourced in China. There are quality-control people who visit the subcontractors to check on the patterns and if the sewing is correct. The sisters test the samples.

No bad year

With 15 outlets in Metro Manila, Bayo posted a 15-percent sales increase in the last quarter over the same time last year. The company has never had a bad year. Although the sales increase may be less, it always reports good sales.

Sales have been good especially in the critical years such as the '92 presidential election and the 1997 Asian crisis, which proved to be blessing for the local garment trade. 1998 was Bayo's best year as the market shifted to local products to buy as gifts during special occasions.

But competition is tough. Sometimes clients come to the store and start comparing them with other brands. They demand for products that they see in other stores. With the demand for plus sizes, Bayo, which originally had patterns for the teen figure, has started to produce extra-large sizes.

With other brands advertising in print and billboard, Bayo has been launching its own campaigns. This month, Bayo introduced its new image model, Lea Salonga. Although the 30-year-old thespian may be more mature than its target market, the company believes that the celebrity endorser is still the best.

The creative team went to Manhattan and rented an apartment for the pictorial and makeup. Juan Sarte III spent a couple of nights just to do Salonga's makeup for photographer Raymund Isaac. The photographs are mostly done in black and white so that they could stand out from the rest of the advertising images. They went on location in Central Park, Greenwich Village, Park Avenue and Chelsea.

Billboard advertising has always been effective. When model Nicole Hernandez sported a plain gingham shirt on the Edsa billboard, customers kept asking for that style even if it was very basic.

With the bullish advertising and a loaded inventory, Bayo expects to double its sales.

WALKING in Central Park wearing a classic cable knit sweater and another sweater of the same design in a contrasting color.

THE ZEGNA Sport Corner at Rustan's Makati

VUITTON'S classic Monogram handbag

GIGI Mabanta manages the Louis Vuitton store in Manila.

KATHERINE Kwei, Louis Vuitton's PR specialist, presents the Mini Monogram urban bags.

Louis Vuitton polishes monograms, Zegna gets sporty

By Donnie C. Ramirez

LOUIS Vuitton, the French fashion house known for exquisite leather goods, presented its latest collections at a special sneak preview held at the Al estilo de..., the tony restaurant in Rockwell Center's Lifestyle Arcade. Katherine Kwei, the company's PR specialist based in Hong Kong, flew to Manila to host the event with Louis Vuitton Phils. country manager Gigi Mabanta. The guests were invited to touch and feel the merchandise, which were grouped by product category and presented on beautifully arranged table setups.

The presentation started with the new Mini Monogram bags and shoes collection. The urban handbags are spiced up with a splash of luscious colors that range from blue denim to cherry to khaki hues. The six ultra-chic styles all have leather finishings that match the colors of the monogram flowers. The bags are matched with the Mini Monogram canvas shoes, which come in the same fashionable colors as the bags. Women can choose from 10-cm high heels, ballerina flats, 5-cm mules, moccasins and sneakers.

Presented next was the Monogram line, Louis Vuitton's most famous collection that has remained a favorite and a definitive status symbol for die-hard Vuitton aficionados. Louis Vuitton reveals some delightful twists on its original classic Damier motif. Created in 1888 and relaunched in 1996, the new Damier is as irresistible as ever, bearing the sober elegance of the familiar geometric motif that guarantees timeless allure.

Louis Vuitton has several surprises for the well-dressed gentlemen. The men's collection includes elegant yet functional bags, ties and belts that carry the military look prevalent in the spring-summer 2001 collection. The evening shoes come in various textures that fit any occasion. The Monogram ties are available in three models, namely La Cachemire, Mini Louis Vuitton and the Monogram. All in dominant monochromatic color scheme that play up a palette of 12 colors, the ties have sharp details for total recognition. An all-silk facing runs down the tie's length, and a loop label with the LV logo holds the rear and front aprons together. The slip-stitched seam closes the tie, ending in a yellow saddle-stitched bar tack, which allows the tie to hold its shape after repeated use.

Capping the presentation is the Louis Vuitton City Guide 2001. Updated regularly and now on its third edition, the handy and attractively packaged guidebook lists 32 European cities and comes in an elegant purple boxed set of eight paperbound books.

The new collections are available at the Louis Vuitton showroom at the G/F 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati.

For the sporty male

On the other end of the fashion pole, men with a more casual and less stringent fashion preference now have a new clothing option at the newly opened Zegna Sport Corner at Rustan's Makati. The world-renowned male fashion brand expands its line in the Philippines with garments targeted at the rugged and sporty male.

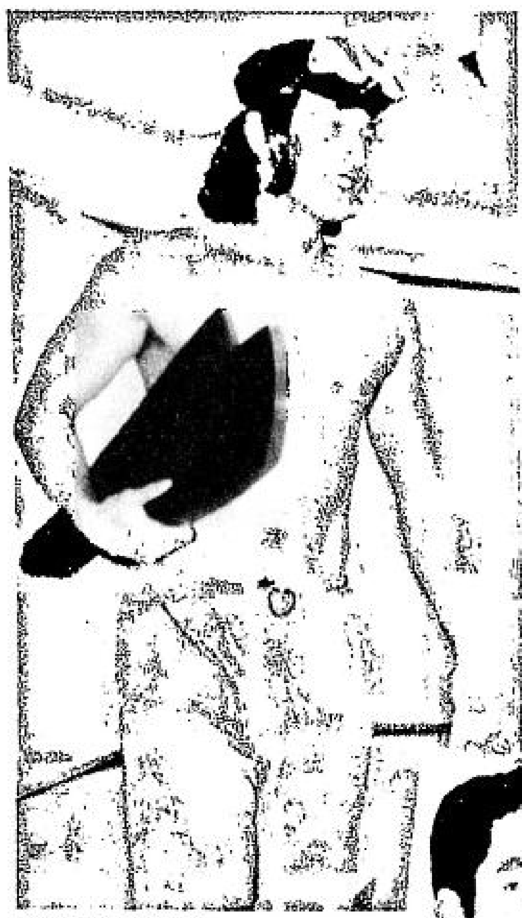
Zegna Sport answers the need of an active outdoor lifestyle with garments that carry the stamp of casual elegance in refined styling. The 2001 Summer Line mixes natural fabrics and high-density microfibers that guarantee durability and comfort.

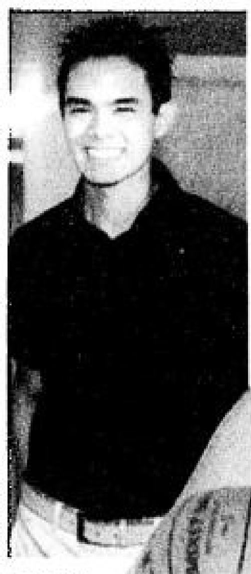
Despite being functional, Zegna Sport does not abandon style and elegance. Casual and relaxed, it offers classic cuts given a witty edge through bright and vibrant colors. Reds, strong shades of blues and the enduring black enhance the tops line, while exotic summer prints dominate the beachwear collection.

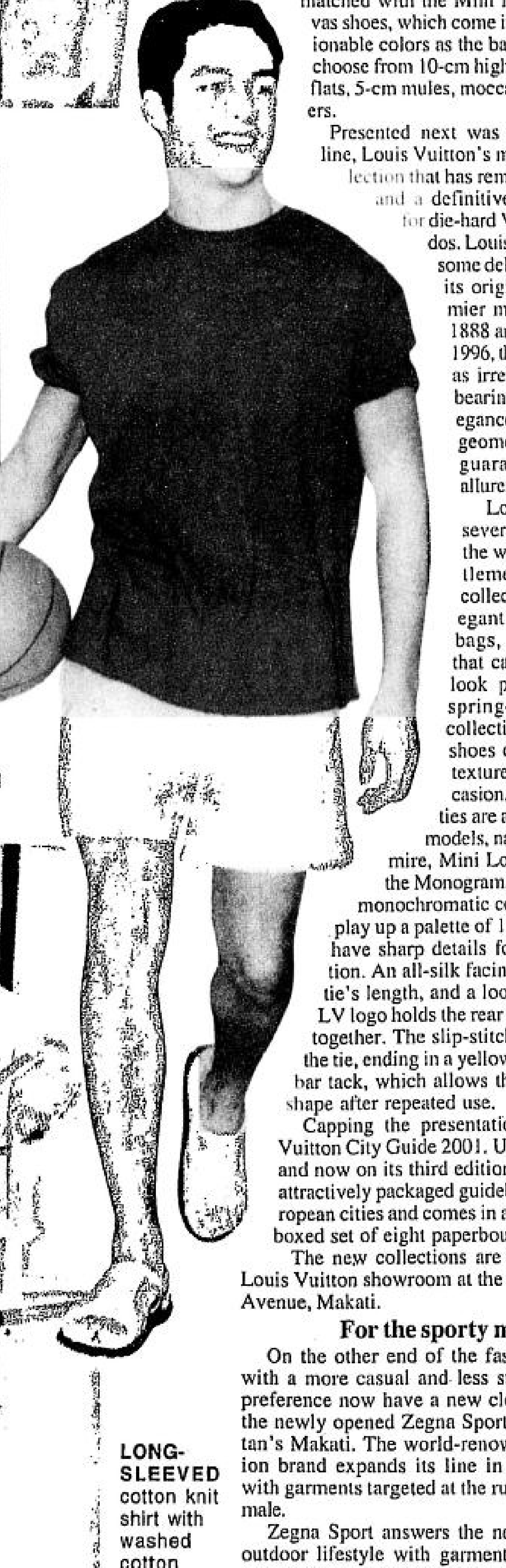
The Zegna Sport Corner was officially opened by Roberto Landi, area manager for Asia of Ermenegildo Zegna, and Rico Tantoco, president and managing director of Rustan's Commercial Corp. Representing the Italian embassy was Consul Silverstro Schimonelli.

A fast-paced mini show directed by Jackie C. Aquino presented Zegna Sport's summer line consisting of ultra-light iridescent microfiber rip stop jackets, double-layer cotton polos with contrast color detailing, nylon and suede sneakers and sandals in natural tonal color combinations, drawstring karate pants in washed cotton canvas with underseam gusset, waterproof microfiber all-sport pullovers, soft-touch cotton crews, ventilated mini pique cotton shirts, and swimwear and shorts of washed ultralight fabrics in ocean colors and exotic prints.

Prominent young men like Paolo Prieto, twin brothers Doctors Arnel and Romeo Nuguid, disco king Louie Ysmael, model Paolo Relucio and friends of the third-generation Tantocos like Joel Tantoco, Donnie Tantoco, Katrina Tantoco and Eman Pineda graced the opening.

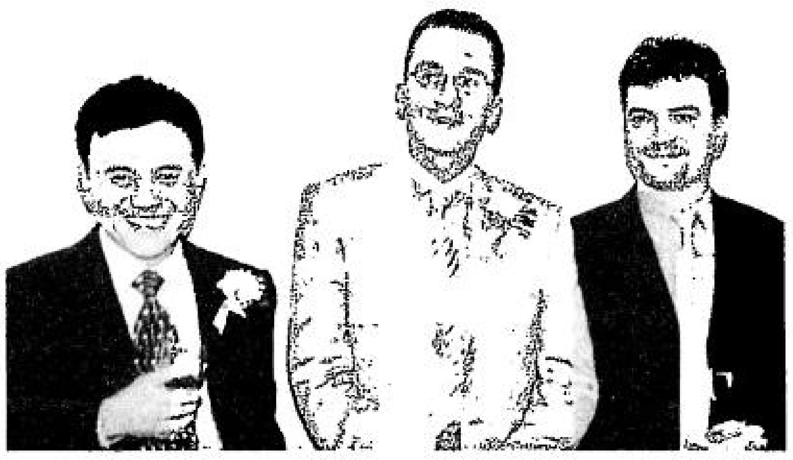

BEACHWEAR in bright ocean color


EMAN Pineda


ZEGNA Sport's crewneck tee and yellow shorts

LONG-SLEEVED cotton knit shirt with washed cotton pants

JOEL Tantoco, Cherry del Mundo and May Lynn Miranda


RICO Tantoco, Roberto Landi and French embassy commercial attaché Herve Cotton

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PREMIER Jour ladies: Kaz Castillo, Pia Guanio and Rissa Samson

New scent for a new era

TO MARK the new beginnings in the fashion house, Nina Ricci has decided to create a fragrance for women, Premier Jour. Premier Jour symbolizes the firstborn of the new Nina Ricci era.

The scent was launched recently at the Hidalgo Place in Rockwell Center with some of Manila's young female personalities who embody the Premier Jour spirit gracing the event. New TV personality Pia Guanio, model of the moment Rissa Samson, MYX VJs Kaz Castillo and Clara Balaguer, print and TV ad model Nicole Hernandez, and third-generation Tantocos of the Rustan empire Catherine Huang and Katrina Tantoco were invited to try out the new scent which is made for the new woman whose sensuality is of a new and irresistible kind.

With Premier Jour, Nina Ricci is introducing a new attitude. The fragrance kicks off with crisp, bright top notes. This composition blends the white petals of the morning dew gardenia with new yellow mandarin. Gradually one sweet pea coupled with vanillary orchid. The note of white-sugared almond draws this composition toward the warm intimacy of scents that reveal themselves discreetly.

Premier Jour is packaged in both a sensual and intellectual design. The bottle is two-tiered—two cylinders placed one on top of the other. The base is tinted with flesh pink that merges into a graduated heavenly blue on the top cylinder. The pastel shades look like a delicate wash. The smooth and repolished top guides the light into the center, banded with silvery metal.

GUILLAUME Nagy, representative of Nina Ricci Asia Pacific, area manager Angela Tang and Anthony Huang, EVP of Rustan Marketing Corp

Also at the launch where the huge mock-up perfume and print ad were unveiled were Anton Huang, EVP of Rustan Marketing Corp.; Angela Tang, area manager of Nina Ricci; and Guillaume Nagy, representative of Nina Ricci Asia Pacific. The fashion and lifestyle press were also present to check out the new fragrance, after enjoying a sumptuous lunch prepared by Margarita Fores of Cibo.

Nina Ricci's Premier Jour is now available in all leading department stores and is distributed exclusively by Rustan Marketing Corporation, a division of the Rustan Group of Companies.

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Bridal show tonight at Manila Hotel

THE DREAMMAKER, a bridal store, is holding its gala fashion show today at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

Billed "Wedding at the Park," it showcases a range of design possibilities that the Dreammaker can offer brides and their entourage. The ballroom of the Fiesta Pavilion will simulate a park.

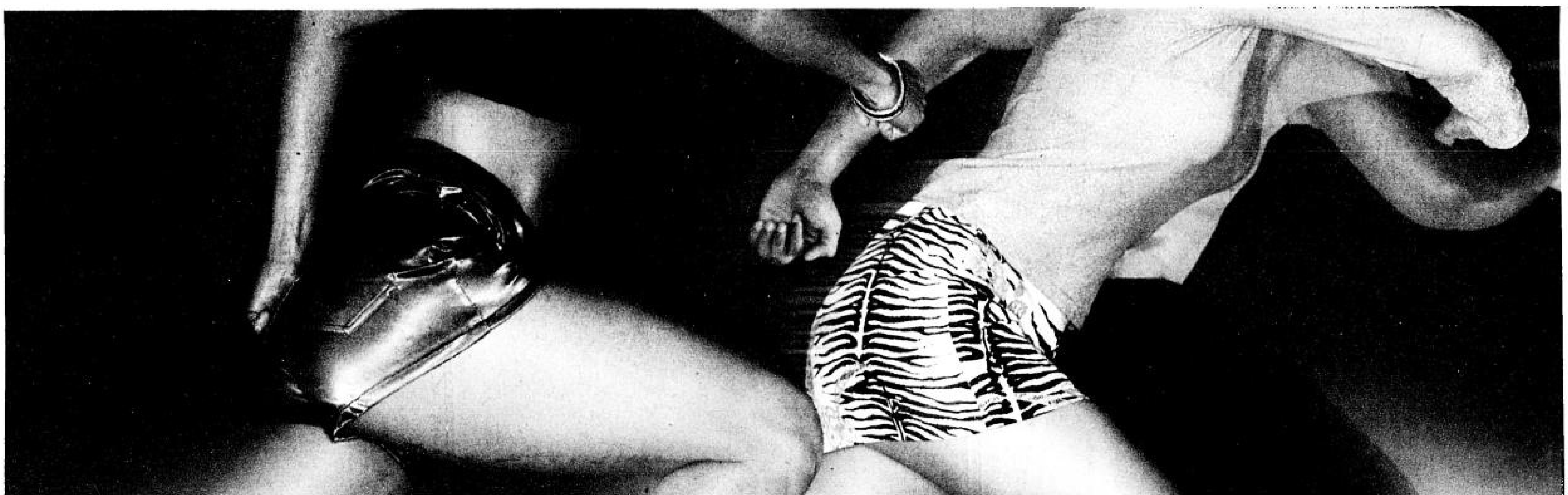
While the collection of wedding gowns will mostly be in the store's signature ecru and white, the evening gowns will be a little more dramatic. "It will be a return to the Camelot days, so expect very rich and vivid colors," says designer and bridal specialist Bill Calubaquib.

"Wedding at the Park" will feature 80 models, including Manila's top mannequins and celebrity guests.

Calubaquib and Dreammaker has been in the wedding gowns business since the early '90s. Dreammaker is also into exporting bridal gowns to fashion capitals in the world. Calubaquib has studied design, both technical and creation, formally in Sydney and in the Netherlands, hence his patterns have always been of international standards. While he is reluctant to embrace the glamorous trappings of being a designer, he is quick to accept that he is a businessman. "Fashion is not an art," he says matter of factly, "it's a business."

Dreammaker, located at 21 Presidents Ave., Tahanan Village, Parañaque City, will be opening a bridal salon in Manila soon.

Proceeds of "Wedding at the Park" will benefit the out-of-school youth and street children of Mandaluyong. The event will begin with a dinner at 7 p.m., to be followed by the show at 8 p.m. Raymond Villanueva directs.



FRIDAY, JUN 8, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER D1

Home LIFESTYLE

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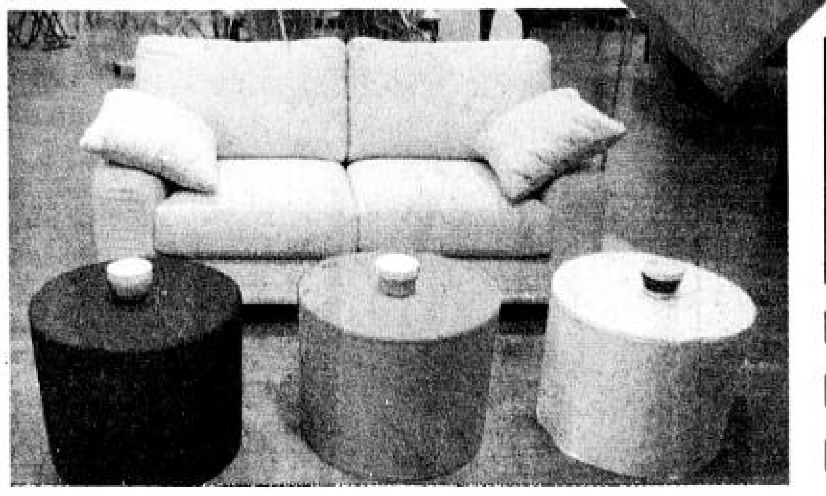

CORNER arrangement consists of a beige sofa and matching pillows, three hassocks in red, blue and yellow to serve as footrest, extra seats or serving tables. Electric fan at right has blades designed as five-leaf clover.

New zone of creative home ideas

By Doris G. Nuyda
Photos by Johnny Villena

IF you're in need of fine furniture or home decorating ideas, you can get them easily through one-stop, one-step shopping. This is at the newly launched annex of Home Zone at the 4/L Glorietta, Makati City.

Sometime ago, INQUIRER feature the original Home Zone. Now there are more home décor/furnishing shops, each offering unique merchandise for an overall eclectic mix. It's one-stop shopping, because you don't have to go hither and yon in search of the right pieces of furniture or accessory for your home. And it's one-step because the shops are a door away from each other.

We entered all those doors and had to be pulled out by friends because each shop was a magnet. While most of the shops specialize in certain items, six in particular offer actual arrangements for interiors—like a living room, bedroom, patio, work area, etc.

To introduce customers to Home Zone's multifaceted offerings, Glorietta managers recently held a grand launch where six guest stylists were invited to create their own rooms using space and items from a store of their choice befitting their theme. These stylists were Tina Maristela Ocampo, Catherine Zobel de Ayala, Tessa Prieto Valdes, Rachy Cuna, Jomari Yllana and Maritel Nievera.

Dimensione

Dimensione is the oldest of Home Zone's shops, having been in operation long before the Zone idea was born. It is, in fact, the very first of the Ben Chan enterprises, older even than the Bench lines. For this reason, it has branches all over Metro Manila (two right at the Glorietta on different floors) and in Laguna, Pampanga, Cebu and Iloilo.

As a furniture shop, Dimensione concentrates on imported items from Europe and Asia, which are likely to give fresh, new ideas. Its original concept was to offer small pieces, catering to young upscale professionals. Now it brings in bigger pieces in response to a growing demand.

Bench product manager Dale de la Cruz arranged a living room area to illustrate the Dimensione look. Twin sofas, upholstered in brown semi-corduroy, face each other for intimate chitchats. Between them is a low-slung (8" tall) center table. The room's focal point is an entertainment wall unit of cherry wood from Denmark. There are shelves for a TV set, stereo and CD components. Crystal vases of varied sizes from Poland hold greenery for different settings. They come circular, square, tall, low, clear or frosted.

Kish

Right opposite Dimensione is Kish, a concept store named after its owner, Ito Kish. Current

NEW/p.D3

CRYSTAL vases with greens are put together (nine are shown here) to make an attractive window display. Idea from Dimensione

Beauty starts with a hot water bath.
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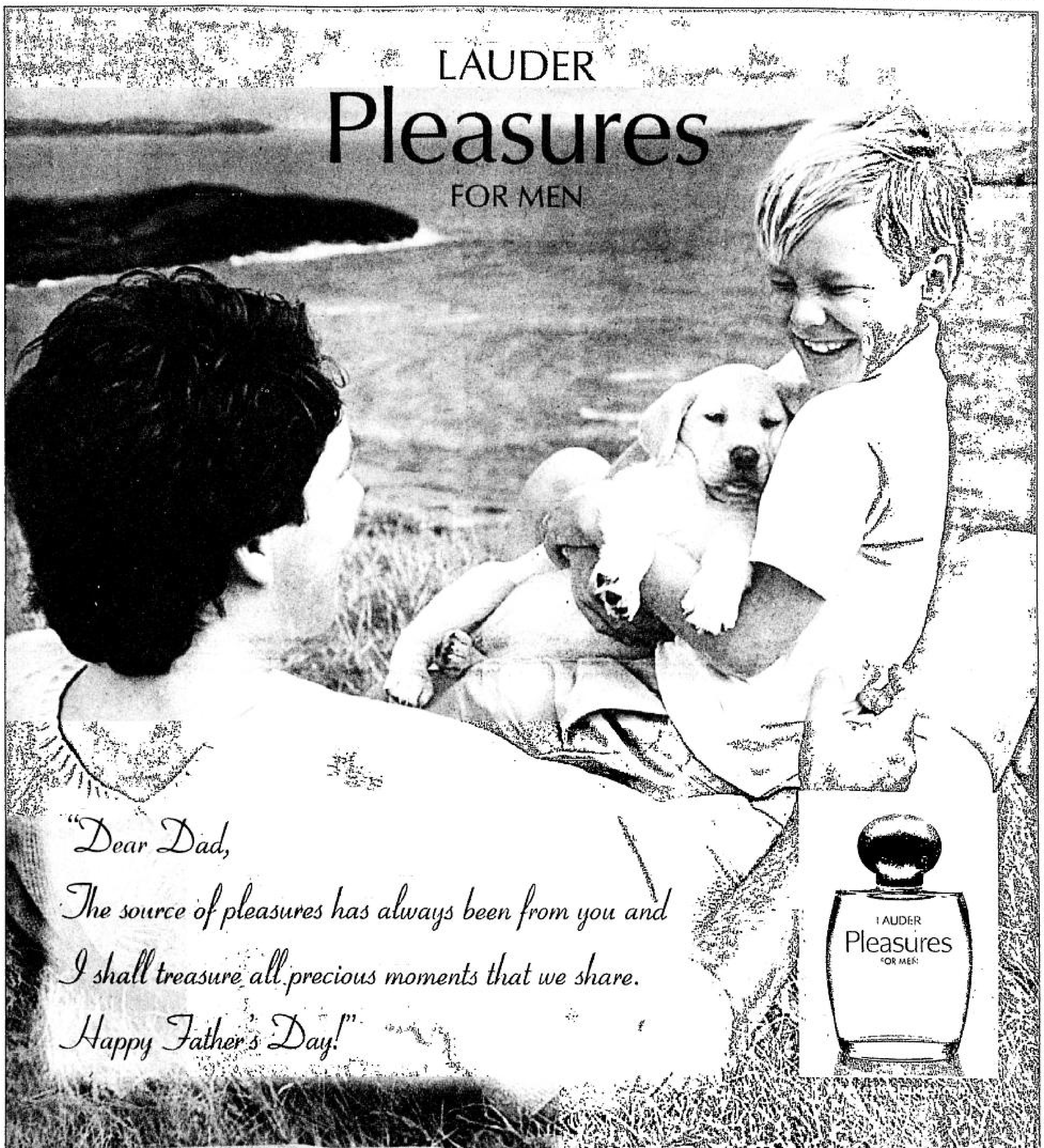
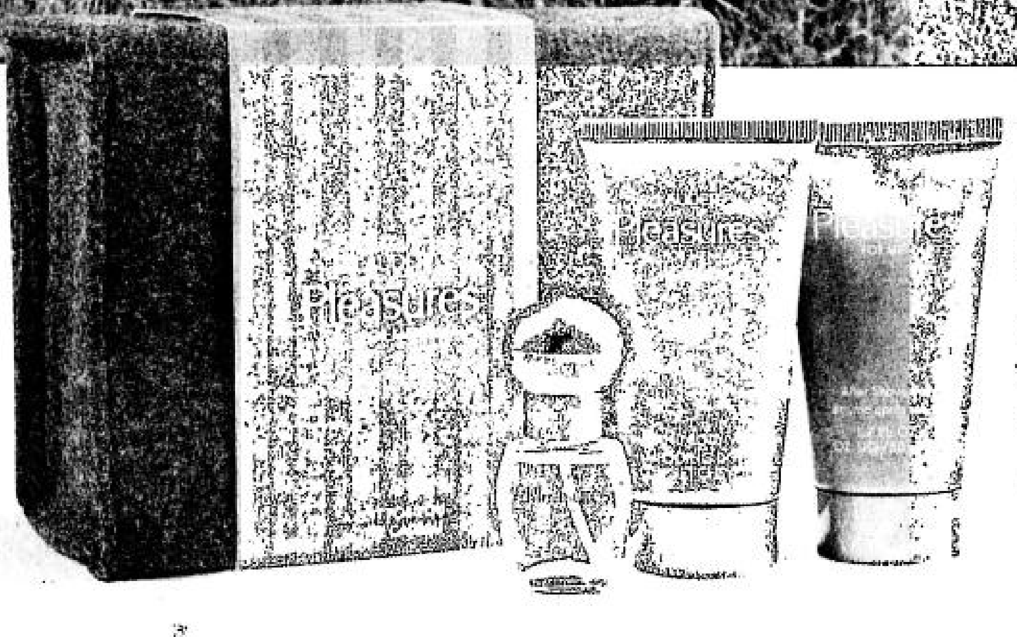

LAUDER
Pleasures
FOR MEN
"Dear Dad,
The source of pleasures has always been from you and
I shall treasure all precious moments that we share.
Happy Father's Day!"
LAUDER
Pleasures
FOR MEN



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New zone of creative home ideas

(From page D1)

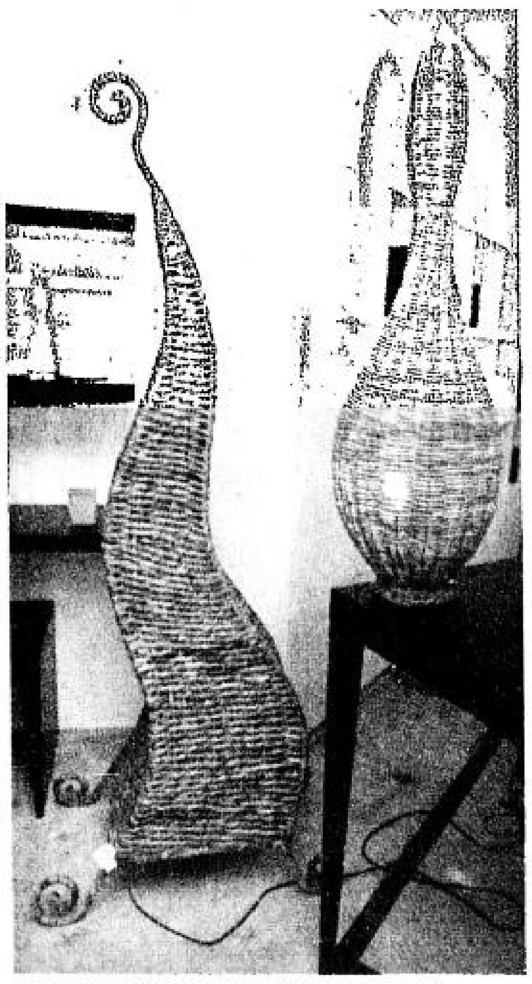
focus here are Asian and ethnic displays (which change seasonally). Featured is a bedroom arrangement with headboard of imported white leatherette framed, in *almaciga* wood. Laid on it is a bamboo tray with Japanese ceramic plates and a mango wood vase. Beside the bed is a night table, and at its roof is an Ottoman bench.

On another end of the shop is a setting of split rattan chairs accompanied by Thai boxes of graduated sizes (they can actually be nested) with inlaid trim. On the chairs are throw pillows with animal-skin prints (leopard, snake, etc). Tucked among boxes are floor lamps of unique design. One is of banana fiber, the other rattan.

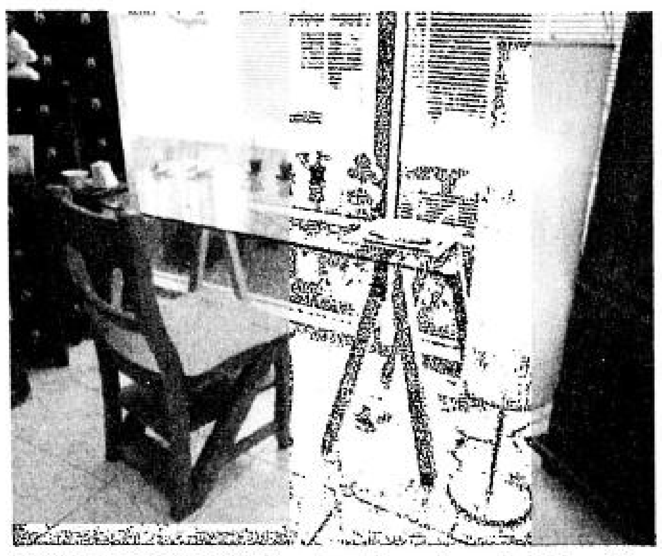
Cereo Candle Exchange

Everything you need by way of candles, candle accessories and scents you can get at Cereo, where you will be ably assisted by Leah Puyat and Angelette Calero. Cereo candles come as big as hatboxes or as tiny as fireflies. These may be free standing or enclosed in Chinese lantern stands or old-fashioned lamplights. There are 3-ft-long tapers that can stay lit for hours and hours.

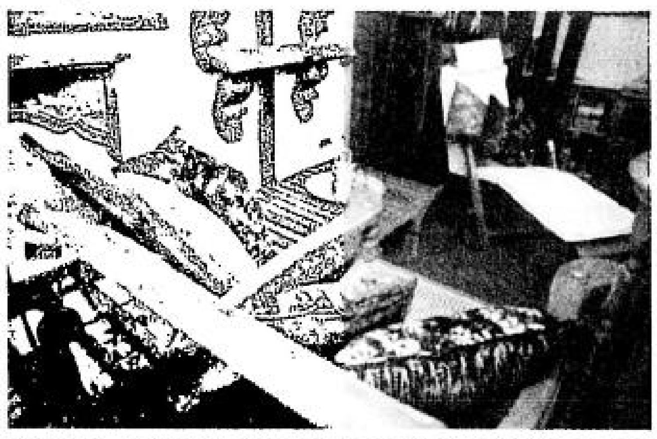
NEW/p.D7



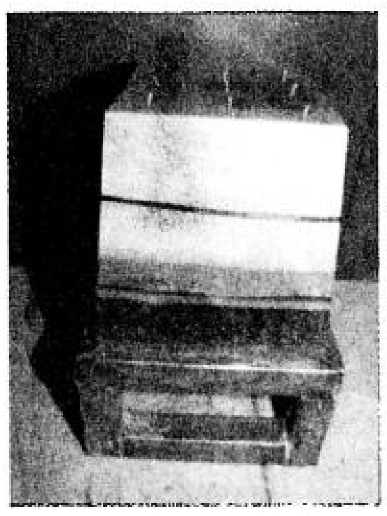
UNIQUE Kish lamps with shades of banana fiber and rattan



FROM RESTORATION, glass-topped work table with folding saddle legs. Chair converts into a ladder.



HOME & Beyond's steamer line includes teakwood bed and two types of lounging chairs. *Batik* throw pillows add color and comfort.



AT CEREO Candle Exchange, you have the answers to our power and light problems. Shown are trapezoidal-shaped candles.

DEBBIE candles from Restoration have wrought-iron handles. Just stick into pot or on the ground and light up.

Germ buster

DOMEX is a cleaner that will mercilessly get rid of dirt and germs—even those that hide in the most unlikely places. Maintaining a clean and germ-free home is now as easy as ABC with Domex—the all-around home cleaner.

By using Domex, you can effectively remove the toughest dirt and germs, giving you the assurance that your home remains squeaky clean. Diluted or undiluted, it can be used in almost every part of your home. It effectively cleans and disinfects sinks, sink and basin U-tubes, toilets, tile surfaces, linoleum as well as metal surfaces.

Disinfect as often as possible to keep all surfaces and areas in the home immaculately clean. Scrub off those dirty shoe prints on your floor with Domex. See to it that you also clean your walls, ceilings, doors as well as windows. Glass panels, aluminum surfaces and wooden furnitures can also be disinfected with Domex diluted in water.

Toilet bowls, urinals, shower curtains and doors can also become germ-free using Domex. It can likewise be used on appliances, wooden furnishings, glass surfaces and formica-topped furniture as long as it is diluted in water. Keep drains and plug holes clean by just pouring in Domex. These areas may remain breeding places of dust and dirt without you seeing and knowing it.

For those with infants and toddlers, wipe diluted Domex over baby equipment with a multi-surface sponge to keep germs at bay. If you're a pet lover, chances are animals can also spread infection to your kids. Regularly disinfect their grooming and feeding equipment with a solution of Domex.

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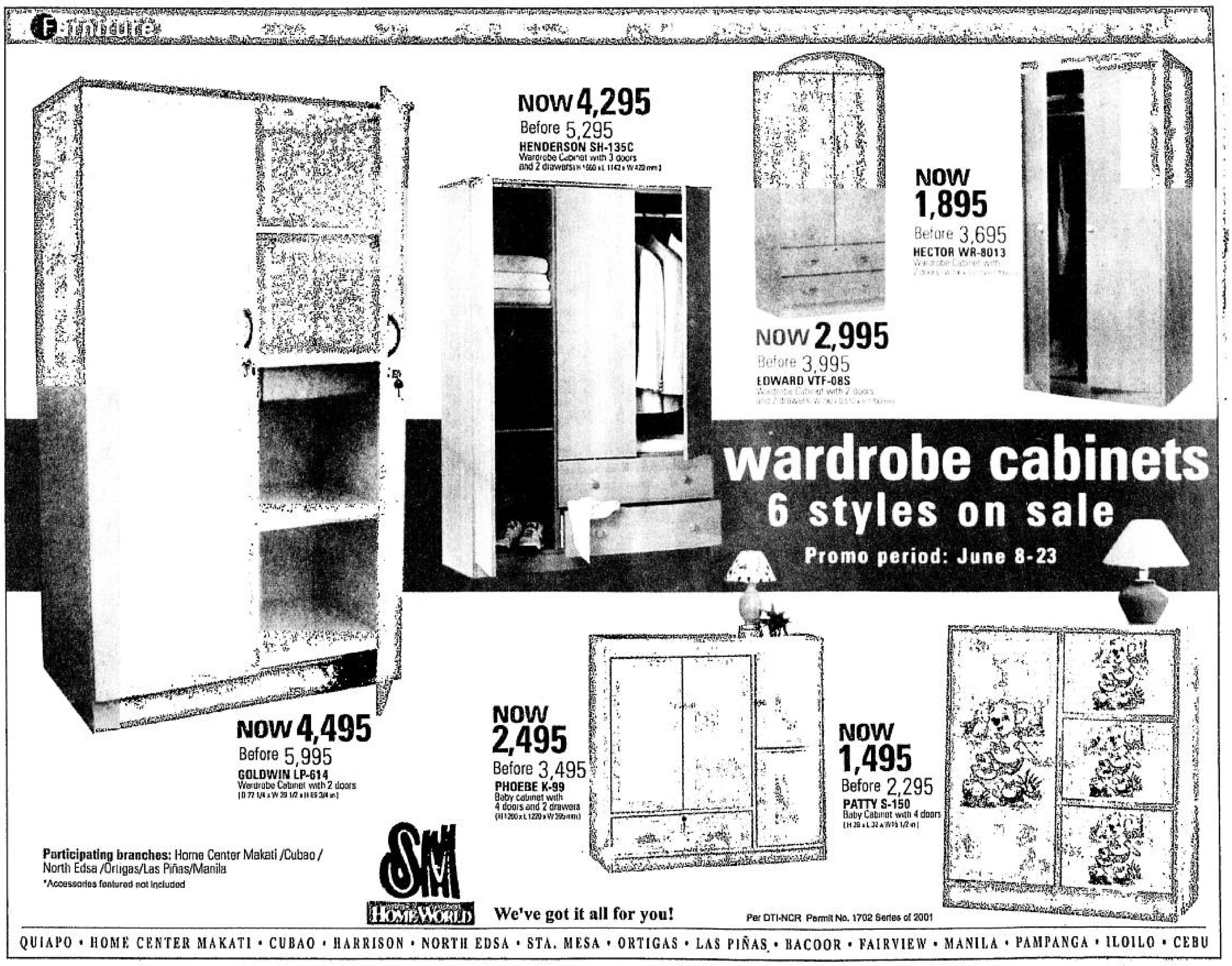
wellaform
light
wellaform
classic
Hair tamed by Wellaform.
My hair is difficult to manage, but people never know. Thanks to Wellaform Styling Lotion, all they see is soft, manageable hair with a lively shine. Hair that moves so naturally, no one could ever guess it has been styled. For just the right amount of control without the heavy hair feel, I use only Wellaform.
Wella. Beautiful hair needs an expert.



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Wardrobe Cabinet with 2 doors and 2 drawers

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HECTOR WR-8013
Wardrobe Cabinet with 2 doors

NOW 4,495
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GOLDWIN LP-614
Wardrobe Cabinet with 2 doors
(D 72 1/4 x W 39 1/2 x H 69 3/4 in)

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(H 1200 x L 1220 x W 395 mm)

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W

Lahat ng trip

zed Entertainment

Showbiz	
Showbiznews	SHOWBIZ
Scoop of the day	SCOOP
Scoop editors	SCOOP <writer>
Music Top Ten	HITS

zed News

Local	
Top National News	NEWS
Business (ABS-CBN)	BIZNEWS
Balita (GMA)	GMABALITA/BALITA
Frontpage	FRONTPAGE
Saksi	SAKSI
Provincial (Get news)	NEWSLOCAL <provincial code>
International	
World News	WORLDNEWS
Asia News	ASIANEWS
Electoral	
List categories	EBANTAY
News	EBANTAY <category>
Information Technology	
Computerworld	CWMAG
PC Magazine	PCMAG
The Web Magazine	WEBMAG

zed Tones & Graphics

Ringtones	
Get tone	TONE <tone name>
Send tone	TONE <tone name> <mobile number>
New	TONE NEW
Top 10	TONE TOPTEN
Categories	TONEMENU
Search	TONESEARCH <categories>
Picture Messages	
Get Picture	PIC <picture name>
Send Picture	PIC <picture name> <mobile number> <message>
New Pictures	PIC NEW
Top 10	PIC TOPTEN
Categories	PICMENU
Search	PICSEARCH
Logos	
Operator logo	
Get logo	LOGO <logo name>
Send logo	LOGO <logo name> <mobile number>
New logo	LOGO NEW
Top 10	LOGO TOPTEN
Categories	LOGOMENU
Search	LOGOSEARCH <category>
Group Icons	
Get icon	ICON <icon name>
Send icon	ICON <icon name> <mobile number>
New icon	ICON NEW
Top 10	ICON TOPTEN

zed Today

Word of the Day	WORD
Today in History	HISTORY
Quote of the Day	QUOTE

zed Poll

Get list of subjects	VOTE
Get question	VOTE <subject>
To answer	VOTE <subject> A/B/C/D
Results	VOTE RESULTS <category>
Help	VOTE HELP

zed Traffic & Weather

Traffic	
Areas available	TRAFLIST
Aurora Blvd.	TRAF AURORA
C-5	TRAF C5
Coastal Road	TRAF COASTAL
Commonwealth	TRAF COMMON
EDSA-Makati	TRAF EDSA MKT
EDSA-Ortigas	TRAF EDSA ORT
EDSA-Pasay Rd.	TRAF EDSA PSY
EDSA-QC	TRAF EDSA QC
NLEX	TRAF NLEX
Ortigas Ave.	TRAF ORT
Quezon Ave.	TRAF QUEZON
Ramon Magsaysay	TRAF RMAGSAYSAY
Roxas Blvd.	TRAF ROXAS
SLEX	TRAF SLEX
Taft Ave.	TRAF TAFT
Weather	
Local	
Forecast	WEA <city>
List Areas	WEA <category>
Weather Update	WEAUPDT or WEATHERUPDT
World	WORLDWEA <city>

zed Banking & Business

Foreign Exchange Rate	
US	USDR
Hongkong	RATE HKD
Singapore	RATE SGD
Japan	RATE JPY
Germany	RATE DEM
UK	RATE GBP
Others	RATE <country or currency>
Currency Converter	CURR <amount> <currency1> <currency2>
Stocks	
Quote	STO <stock code> or STOCKQ <stock code>
Codes	STOCK <company name>
Index Prices	
Phil. Stock Exchange	STOIND PSE
List Indices	STOIND LIST
Prices	STOIND <index code>
Foreign Index	
Index Prices	FINDX <index code>
List Indices	FINDX LIST
Mutual Funds	
Prices	FUND <company code>
Company	FUND LIST
Time Deposit	
Peso Rate	TDP <bank> <amount>
Search	TDP LIST
US Dollar Rate	TDD <bank> <amount>
Search	TDD LIST

zed at Home

Home and Lifestyle	
Recipe book	
Search	RECIPE SEARCH <search criteria up to 5 words>
View	RECIPE VIEW <recipe number>
Next 3 pages	RECIPE NEXT
More pages	RECIPE MORE
New Recipe	RECIPE NEW
Request for a new recipe	RECIPE REQUEST <search criteria up to 5 words>
Help	RECIPE HELP

Talk 'N Text with zed
Talk 'N Text with zed
Talk 'N Text with zed

Sa Talk 'N Text with zed
other things na trip mo!
to give you more choices

Para sa iba't-iba

Example: To get your HOROSCOPE

ARIES	288	Aries: Today i your lucky day!
Just type the keyword...	... send as a text message to 288...	... and you will rec your fortune!

ith zed™

no, nandito na!

zed Sports

Sports	
Headlines	SPO/SPORTS
PBA	
News	PBANEWS
Scores	PBA
Schedule	PBASKED
Standings	PBARANK/PBATEAM
Statistics	PBASTAT
Player of the week	PBAPOW
MBA	
Scores	MBA
Schedule	MBASKED
NBA	
NBA round-up	NBA
Team News	NBANEWS <teamname>
Golf	
News	GOLF
PGA	GOLF PGA
LPGA	GOLF LPGA
Tennis	
News	TENNIS

zed Travel

City sites	
"Gallery, Theater, Library"	CITYSITE <establishment name> LCN <location>
Hotel	HOTEL <hotel name> LCN <location>
Flight Schedules	
Domestic	DOMFLT <carrier code> <origin> <destination>
International	INTFLT <carrier code> <origin> <destination>
Translation	
Foreign	TRANSLATE <word> <source language> <target language> *For language, key in first three letters
World time	TIME <city>

zed Search

Unit Measurement Converter	
Convert	CONV <value> <unit1> <unit2>
List Units	CONV LIST
Area Codes	AREA <city or province>
Country Codes	COUN <city or province>
ZIP Codes	ZIP <municipality/district/barangay>
Emergency Info	EMER <help center code or municipality>
Local Yellow Pages Search	EYP SEARCH <company> , <location> EYP SEARCH <company name>
Caltex Station	
Search	CALTEX <area>
Dictionary	WHATIS <word>
Jobs	JOBS <industry or position>
Package Tracking	
DHL	DHL Package DHL <10-digit airway bill number>
DHL Station list	
List	DHLLIST
Area	DHLLIST <area>
DHL Station Info	DHLLIST <area> <station>
Fedex	FEDEX <airway bill number>
Vehicle Locator	TRACK <Rover ID> <Password>

zed Fun and Games

Joke of the day	JOKE
Quiz Game	
Register	QUIZ JOIN <name or address>
Submit answer	QUIZ <question no.> <answer>
Record of Raffle entries	QUIZ ENTRY
Rules of quiz	QUIZ RULES
Quit	QUIZ QUIT
Trivia	
Question	TRIVIA Q
Answer	TRIVIA A
Jackenpoy	JP / JNP / JACKENPOY
Ask Zed	
Decider	DECIDER
Do I Date You	DOIDBU
What to do	WHAT2DO
Truth or Dare	TRUTH DARE
Card Games	
Blackjack	
Deal	BJ DEAL / BJK DEAL
Hit	BJ HIT / BJK HIT
Stand	BJ STAND / BJK STAND
Rules	BJ RULES / BJK RULES
Commands	BJ COMMANDS / BJK COMMANDS
Lucky 9	
Banker	L9 BANKER
Player	L9 PLAYER
Tie	L9 TIE
Rules	L9 RULES
Commands	L9 COMMANDS
Arcade Game	
Tamiya	
Register	TAMIYA REG <username>
Car	TAMIYA CAR
Choose car model	TAMIYA CAR <race car model>
Circuit	TAMIYA CIRCUIT
Parts	TAMIYA PARTS
Motor type	TAMIYA MOTOR <type of motor>
Rollers	TAMIYA ROLLERS <front rollers> <rear rollers>
Gears	TAMIYA GEARS <gear ratio>
Wheels	TAMIYA WHEELS <wheel type>
Tires	TAMIYA TIRES <tire type>
Chassis	TAMIYA CHASSIS <chassis type>
Set-up	TAMIYA SETUP
Race	TAMIYA RACE
Rules	TAMIYA RULES
Result	TAMIYA RESULT
Record	TAMIYA RECORD
Help	TAMIYA HELP
Sweepstakes Results	SWEEP
Lotto Results	LOTTO
Horse Racing	
List of races	RACE TIPS
Race details	RACE TIPS <race number>
Results	RACE RESULTS
Result search	RACE RESULTS <race number>

zed Psychic

Horoscope	<zodiac sign> "e.g. PISCES, ARIES, LIBRA,Ô"
Fortune Telling	
Categories	FORTUNE LIST
Your fortune	FORTUNE <category> <outcome> "Here, you throw a coin 6 times and take note of the outcome." "Head (H), Tail (T), to find out your fortune on a specific category" Outcome (e.g. HTHTHT)
Dreams	DREAM <dream subject>
Matchmaking	MATCH <P or B> <birthday1> <birthday2> (Personal or Business Compatibility) (Birthdays of person 1 and person 2) <MMDDYY>

zed Gimiks

Movies	
Current Movies	MOVIES
Movie Location	MOV <movie title>
Theaters	THEATERS <theater name> LCN <location>
To get screening times	
SM Malls	
SM Megamall	MOVIESKED SMMEGAMALL <cinema number>
SM Southmall	MOVIESKED SMSOUTHMALL <cinema number>
SM North Edsa	MOVIESKED SMNORTHEDSA <cinema number>
SM Centerpoint	MOVIESKED SMCENTERPOINT <cinema number>
SM Guadalupe	MOVIESKED SMGUADALUPE <cinema number>
SM Fairview	MOVIESKED SMFAIRVIEW <cinema number>
SM Tutuban	MOVIESKED SMTUTUBAN <cinema number>
Glorietta	
Glorietta 1	MOVIESKED GLORIETTA1 <cinema number>
Glorietta 4	MOVIESKED GLORIETTA4 <cinema number>
Robinsons	
R. Galleria	MOVIESKED ROBINSONSGALLERIA <cinema number>
R. Place	MOVIESKED ROBINSONSERMITA <cinema number>
Others	
Town Center	MOVIESKED TOWNCENTER <cinema number>
Festival Mall	MOVIESKED FESTIVAL <cinema number>
Greenbelt	MOVIESKED GREENBELT <cinema number>
Sta. Lucia Mall	MOVIESKED STALUCIA <cinema number>
Live bands Schedules	
Menu	LIVEBAND MENU
Category	LIVEBAND <category>
Bandname	LIVEBAND <bandname>
Top 10	LIVEBAND <top10>
Gig	LIVEBAND GIG <area> e.g. ORTIGAS
San Miguel Beer Gig	
List areas	SMB AREAS
Get gig sked	SMB <area> <date>
Events	EVENT <artist or title>
Bars	BAR <bar name> LCN <location>
Clubs	CLUB <club name> LCN <location>
Restaurants	RESTO <resto name> LCN <location>

zed Mail

Zed Mobile Mail	
Inbox	
Check Mail	MAIL READ STATUS
New Mail	MAIL READ NEW
Unread Mail	MAIL READ <message number>
Delete Mail	MAIL DELETE <message number>,<message number>
Send Mail	
Compose	MAIL SEND <recipient email address or mobile number> EMAIL or MOBILE <subject> <message> e.g. MAIL SEND johnny.santos@abcompany.com EMAIL presentation set at 10 am
Reply	MAIL REPLY <number> <message>
Forward	MAIL FORWARD <RECIPIENT> <msg number> email or mobile <message>
Zed Contacts	
Add	CONTACT ADD <nickname> FULLNAME= <____> MOBILE NUMBER=<____> EMAIL=<____> e.g. CONTACT ADD JS FULLNAME=Johnny Santos MOBILE NUMBER=23456789 EMAIL=jsantos@abcompany.com "*You may add company, home address, etc."
Edit	CONTACT MODIFY <nickname> <email, home residence or mobile number=____> CONTACT MODIFY JS EMAIL=jsantos@abcompany.com
Forward	CONTACT FORWARD <recipient> EMAIL or MOBILE <contact nickname> CONTACT FORWARD jfernandez@xyzcompany.com Email JS
Find	Find <first letter/letters of name>

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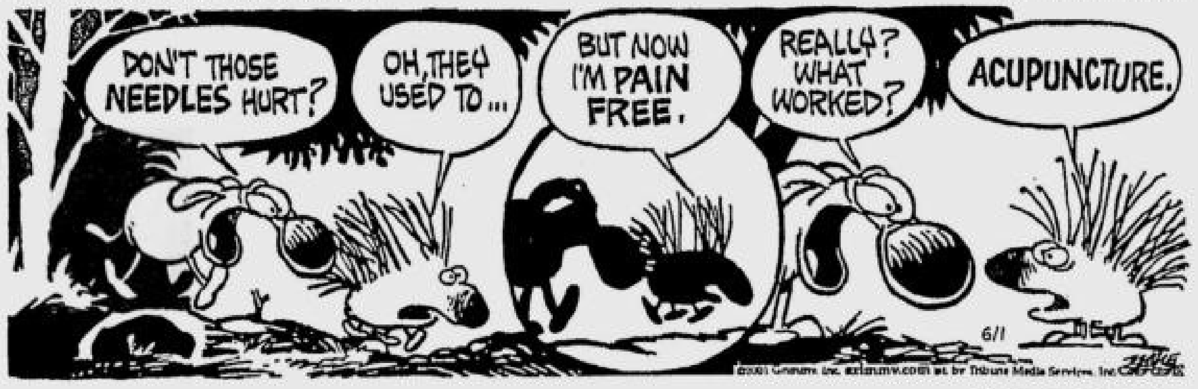
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DON'T THOSE NEEDLES HURT?
OH, THEY USED TO...
BUT NOW I'M PAIN FREE.
REALLY? WHAT WORKED?
ACUPUNCTURE.
6/1
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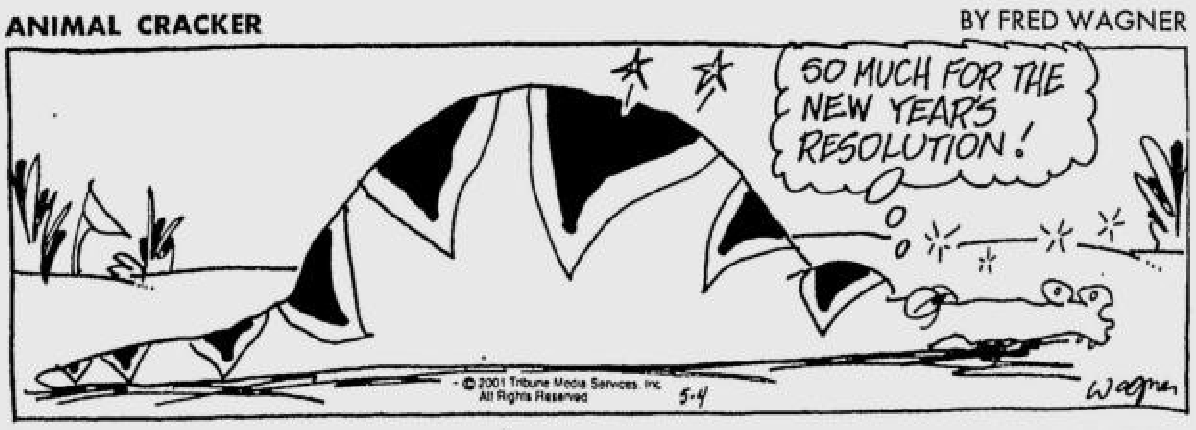
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SO MUCH FOR THE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!
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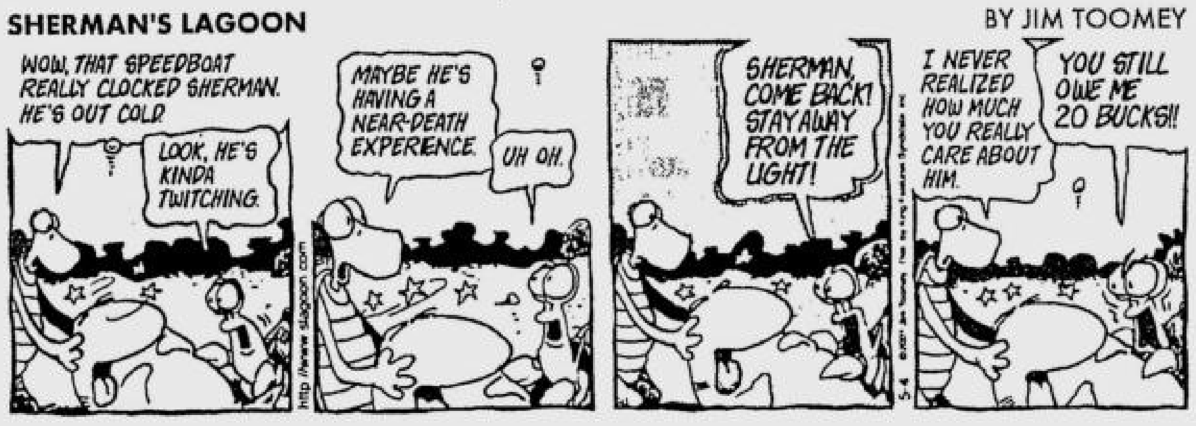
5-4
Wagner

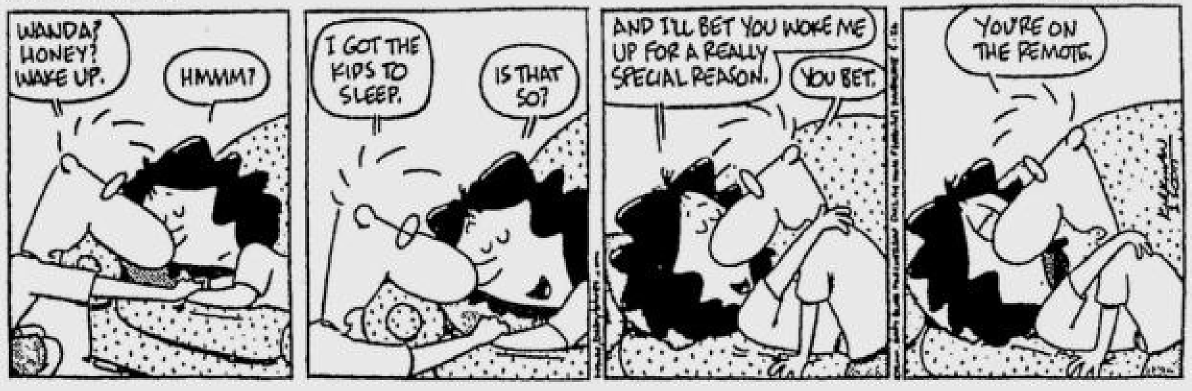
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WOW, THAT SPEEDBOAT REALLY CLOCKED SHERMAN. HE'S OUT COLD
LOOK, HE'S KINDA TWITCHING.
MAYBE HE'S HAVING A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE.
UH OH.
http://www.slagoon.com
SHERMAN, COME BACK! STAY AWAY FROM THE LIGHT!
I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT HIM.
YOU STILL OWE ME 20 BUCKS!!

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WANDA? HONEY? WAKE UP.
HMMM?
I GOT THE KIDS TO SLEEP.
IS THAT SO?
AND I'LL BET YOU WOKE ME UP FOR A REALLY SPECIAL REASON.
YOU BET.
YOU'RE ON THE REMOTE.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joan Rivers, Nancy Sinatra, Barbara Bush, Keenen Ivory Wayans, Jerry Stiller

Happy Birthday: Your determination will lead to accomplishments this year. Your ability to work on several different projects simultaneously will put you ahead of the crowd and lead to the success and attention you've been looking for. You will be aggressive, and this will draw people who admire your stamina and your desire to set your goals and achieve them. Your numbers: 7, 26, 28, 32, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your creative energy into your work. You'll attract controversial attention, which could result in a unique and exciting love connection. Don't keep your free-spirited thoughts to yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be misled if you think that everyone is telling you the truth. Find out for yourself if you have any doubts whatsoever about any of the information that you're being fed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't even consider getting involved in joint ventures. Dead-end projects are apparent. You can look at contracts, but hold off signing anything until you get the go-ahead from your legal adviser.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Social activity will lead to romance. You can win the hearts of the children in your life if you show an interest in the things they enjoy doing. Your emotional partner may have second thoughts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be frustrated if you can't accomplish your goals because of a co-worker's incompetence. Problems with your boss will surface if he or she thinks it's your fault.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to be somewhat drastic if you want to change your image. Take a long, hard look at yourself and set a goal that is sure to lift your spirits and attract other people's interest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Domestic issues will be perplexing. You'll have trouble getting a straight answer out of the party you're involved with. Be understanding, but don't put up with abuse or escapism.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Partnerships may not be as they appear. Find out exactly where you stand. You may be misreading the interest that someone has in you. He or she may only be concerned with your talent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make those career moves you've been thinking about for so long. If you need to make a move, start packing. You've never liked to stay in one place for too long, so quit procrastinating.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you love will not listen or believe what you have to say. Actions speak louder than words in this case. I suggest you give your partner whatever he or she wants to make amends.

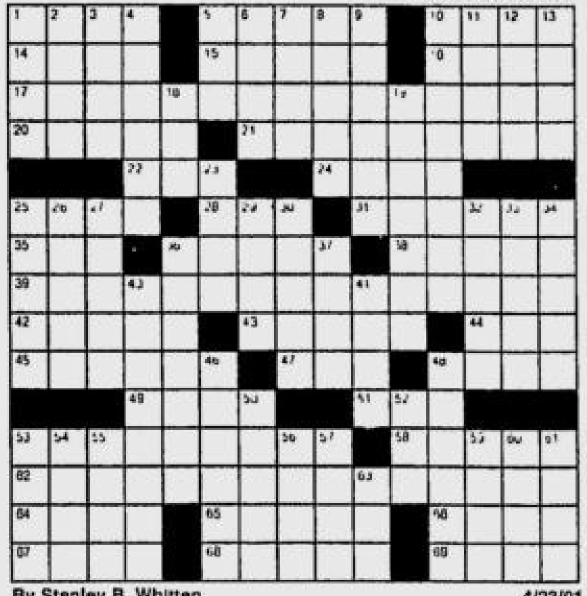
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can be successful if you direct your efforts into financial ventures or professional accomplishments. Don't sit back waiting for others to do things for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in a cause. You have a special way of helping others. Don't let your abilities be wasted. Find something you believe in and make a difference.

Birthday Baby: Intellectual pursuits will always attract you, but you are also up for any competition or challenge that comes your way. You are clever, questioning and can tend to push yourself too hard.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

4/23/01

ACROSS
1 Saudi, e.g.
5 Former rulers of Iran
10 Rum cake
14 "The __ Ranger"
15 Country on the Gulf of Aden
16 Composer Stravinsky
17 One dessert
20 Hippodrome
21 Those who impede
22 Republicans
24 Like Pindar's poetry
25 Fewer
28 CIA forerunner
31 Postage
35 Stock market abbr.
36 In the neighborhood
38 Relating to a pelvic bone
39 Another dessert
42 Promoted to excess
43 Three squares a day
44 6 on the phone
45 Santa's ride
47 Tooth doc's degree
48 __ Piper
49 Prevaricated
51 Lamb's mom
53 Wood chips
58 Feeling of anxiety
62 One more dessert
64 Ballad
65 River of Cologne
66 Footnote abbr.
67 Vegas quote
68 Tanker
69 Permits

DOWN
1 Edison's middle name
2 Pride signal
3 Archer or Bancroft
4 Creatures
5 Part of a wd.
6 Get an earful
7 Nice girlfriend?
8 One hundred: pref.
9 J.C. and Sammy
10 Aviarist's signal
11 "A Death in the Family" writer
12 Male swine
13 Buys bullets
18 Buddhist Thai
19 Reviewers
23 Swimming hole
25 Scottish lakes
26 __ chloride (refrigerant)
27 Range
29 Flimflammer's caper
30 Satisfied completely
32 "__ Vice"
33 "Common Sense" writer
34 Young haddock
36 Furnished rooms
37 Star part
40 Overheads
41 Otherwise
46 Prefix meaning different
48 Writing tool
50 City on the Jumna River
52 Combat
53 Fair
54 Jab
55 Find a perch
56 Sora
57 "Auld Lang __"
59 Comic Kaplan
60 Sketch
61 Danson and Kennedy
63 End of auction?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	S	S	A	G	A	I	■	S	A	L	A	A	M	S
G	E	T	B	A	C	K	■	T	R	O	L	L	O	P
G	R	O	U	P	I	E	■	R	E	G	A	L	I	A
R	E	U	S	E	D	■	R	E	A	S	S	E	R	T
A	N	T	E	S	■	C	U	E	■	■	■	Y	E	S
V	A	N	S	■	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	■	■	■
A	D	E	■	N	A	P	S	■	A	V	E	R	T	S
T	E	S	T	A	T	E	■	P	L	A	T	E	A	U
E	R	S	A	T	Z	■	M	O	O	N	■	R	I	B
■	■	■	B	O	O	B	O	O	S	■	L	O	L	L
A	D	S	■	■	■	L	O	P	■	T	A	U	P	E
P	R	I	C	E	T	A	G	■	P	O	R	T	I	A
R	O	T	A	T	O	R	■	P	O	R	G	I	E	S
O	V	E	R	A	T	E	■	E	S	S	E	N	C	E
N	E	S	T	L	E	D	■	G	E	O	R	G	E	S

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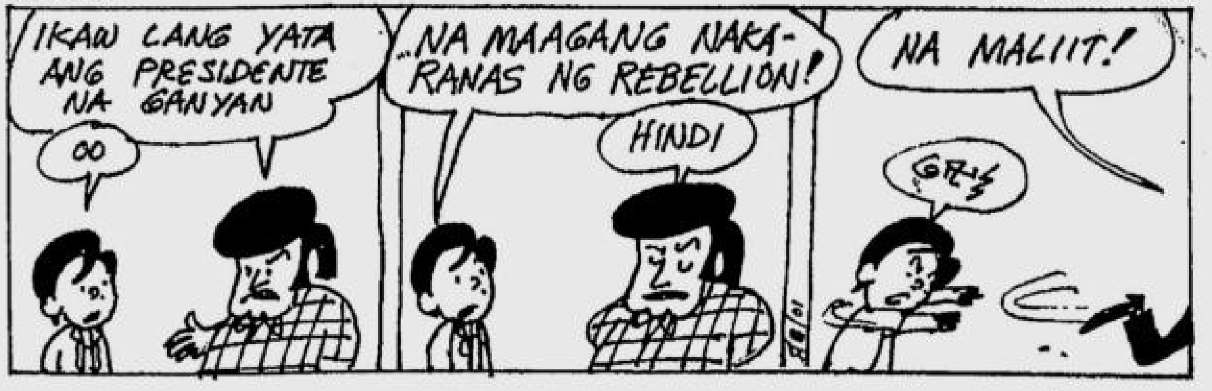
4/23/01

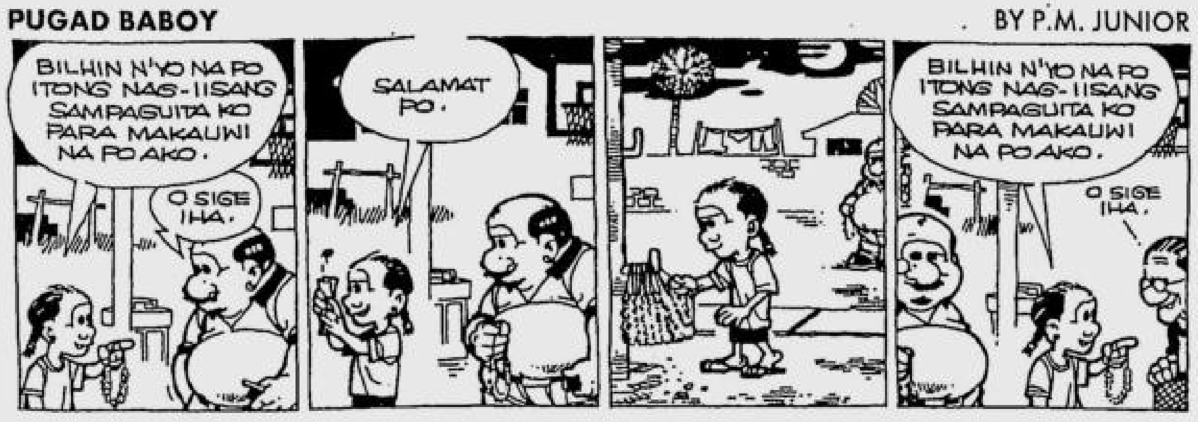
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


IKAW LANG YATA ANG PRESIDENTE NA GANYAN
OO
..NA MAAGANG NAKA-RANAS NG REBELLION!
HINDI
NA MALIIT!

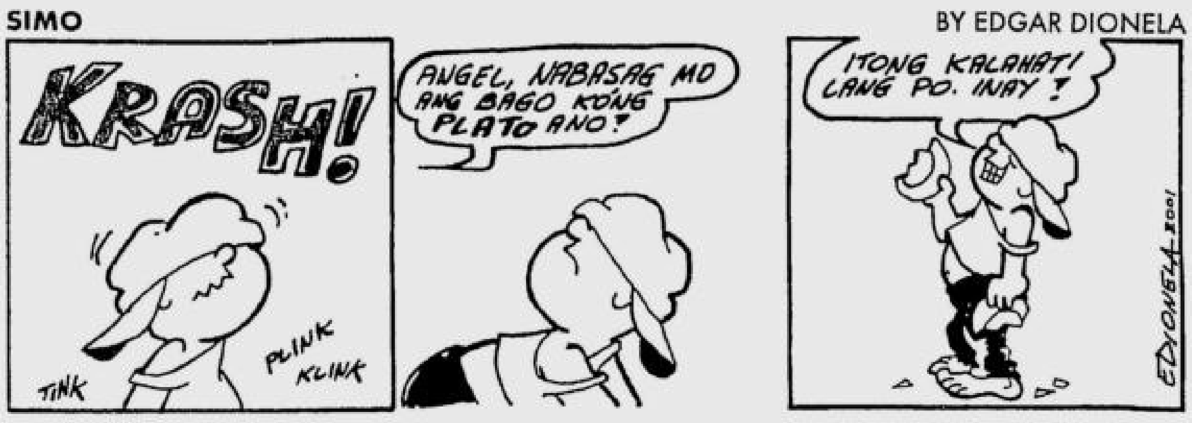
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BILHIN N'YO NA PO ITONG NAG-IISANG SAMPAGUITA KO PARA MAKAUWI NA PO AKO.
O SIGE IHA.
SALAMAT PO.
BILHIN N'YO NA PO ITONG NAG-IISANG SAMPAGUITA KO PARA MAKAUWI NA PO AKO.
O SIGE IHA.

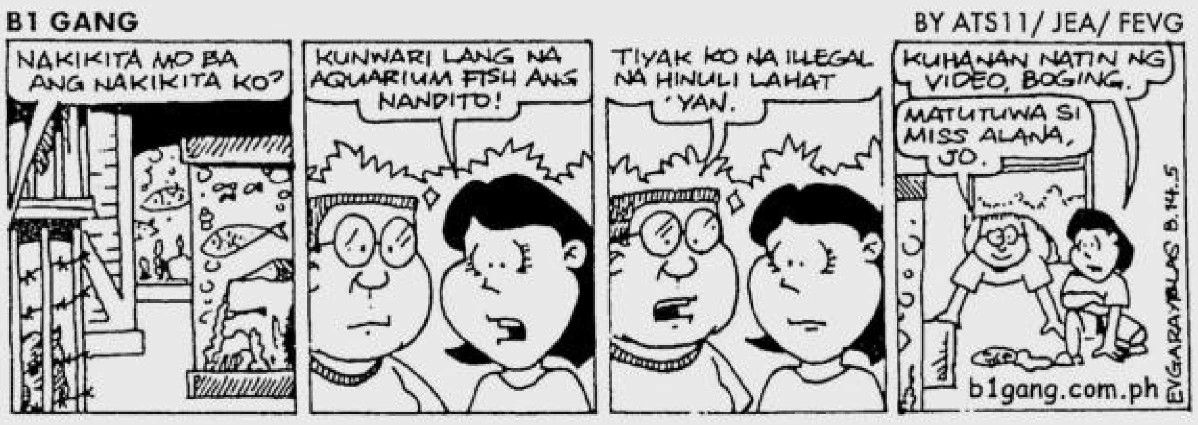
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KRASH!
TINK
PLINK
KLINK
ANGEL, NABASAG MO ANG BAGO KONG PLATO ANO?
ITONG KALAHATI LANG PO, INAY!
EDIONELA 2001

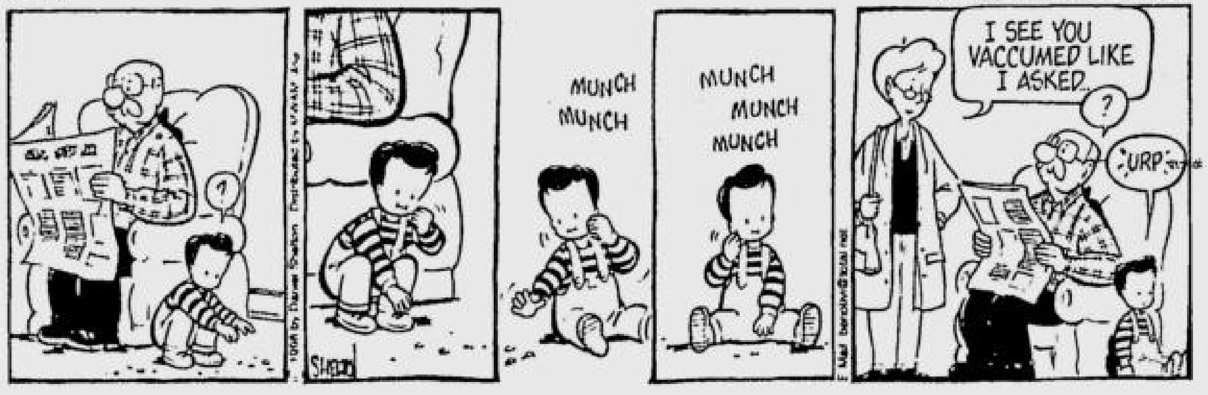
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NAKIKITA MO BA ANG NAKIKITA KO?
KUNWARI LANG NA AQUARIUM FISH ANG NANDITO!
TIYAK KO NA ILLEGAL NA HINULI LAHAT 'YAN.
KUHANAN NATIN NG VIDEO, BOGING.
MATUTUWA SI MISS ALANA, JO.
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.14.5

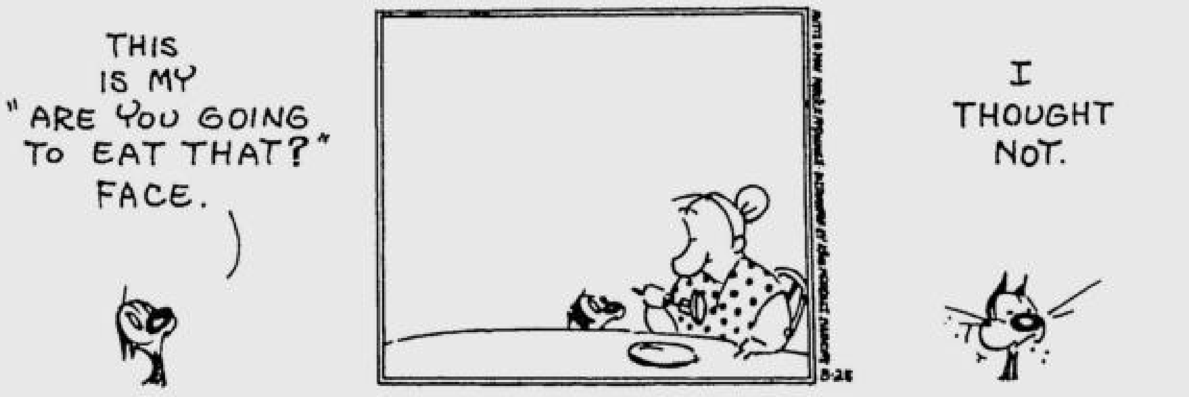
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


?
MUNCH MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
I SEE YOU VACCUMED LIKE I ASKED.
?
URP

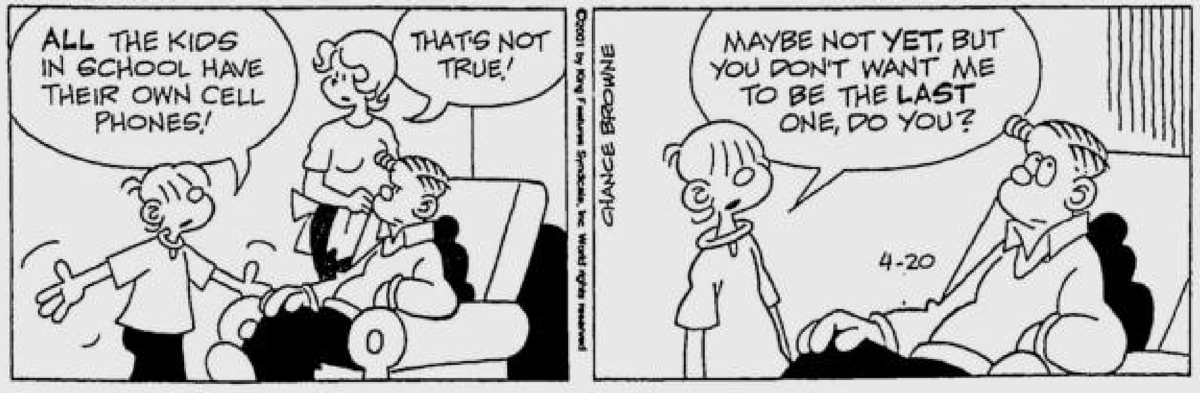
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY "ARE YOU GOING TO EAT THAT?" FACE.
I THOUGHT NOT.
8-28

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


ALL THE KIDS IN SCHOOL HAVE THEIR OWN CELL PHONES!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
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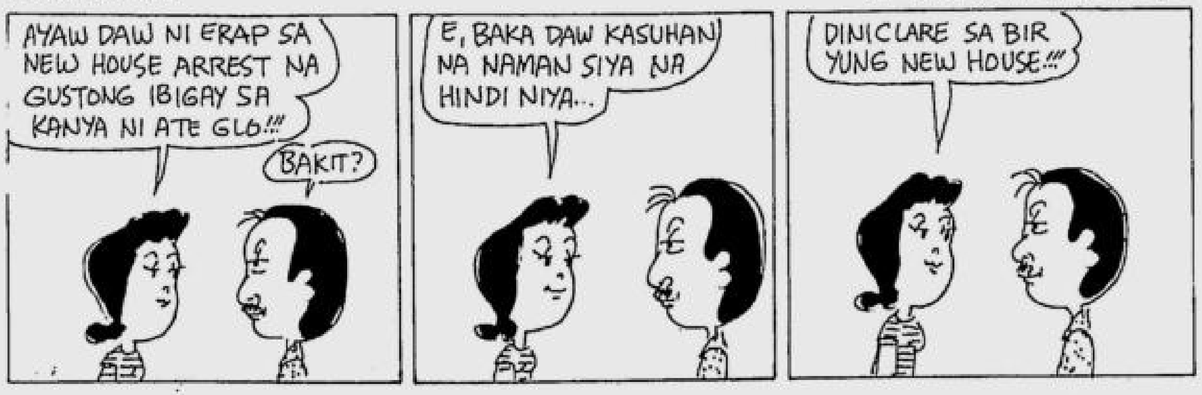
CHANCE BROWNE
MAYBE NOT YET, BUT YOU DON'T WANT ME TO BE THE LAST ONE, DO YOU?
4-20

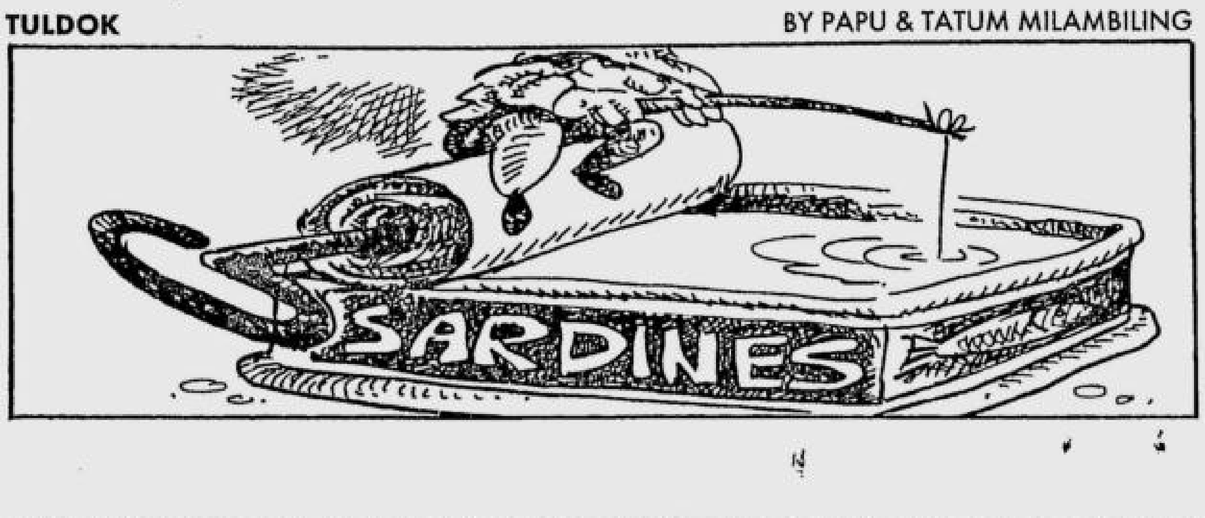
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AYAW DAW NI ERAP SA NEW HOUSE ARREST NA GUSTONG IBIGAY SA KANYA NI ATE GLO!!!
BAKIT?
E, BAKA DAW KASUHAN NA NAMAN SIYA NA HINDI NIYA...
DINICLARE SA BIR YUNG NEW HOUSE!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



CHERRY-WOOD dining set for four has contoured chair backs.

SPLIT rattan chairs also from Kish combine with nest of boxes from Thailand

New zone of creative home ideas

(From page D3)

Restoration

American contemporary furniture and decorative items like picture frames, table/desk accessories are the specialties at Restoration. There's a glass-topped-table-turned- desk that offers creative possibilities as a workspace. In charge here are Aries and Claire Feliciano.

Home & Beyond

Indonesian lounging chairs are the focus of the moment in Home & Beyond. Especially attractive are the lanai-patio items of teakwood. One such patio chair is the Indonesian version of the Filipino *peresosa* (easy chair). Called steamer chair, it has a reclining back and wide arms. Another is the steamer bed, which is narrower than

NEW/p.D8

DESK of fir wood from Pinewood Barn has a hinged top that can be put down when not in use. Chair is *molave* with rivet décor. On desk top is ethnic-style clock framed in pine twigs and beads.

DIMENSIONE'S living room setting consists of two sofas facing each other, an entertainment wall unit and low center table. Crystal vases with greens fill empty spaces.

HOROSCOPE

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LOGO SCORPIO
Gemini
LOGO GEMINI
Sagittarius
LOGO SAGITTARIUS
Cancer
LOGO CANCER
Capricorn
LOGO CAPRICORN
Leo
LOGO LEO
Aquarius
LOGO AQUARIUS
Virgo
LOGO VIRGO
Pisces
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Save upon receiving the logo

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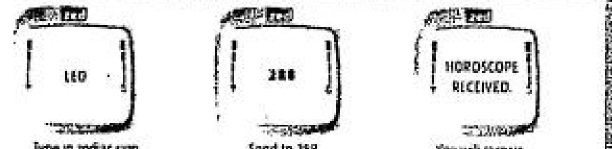
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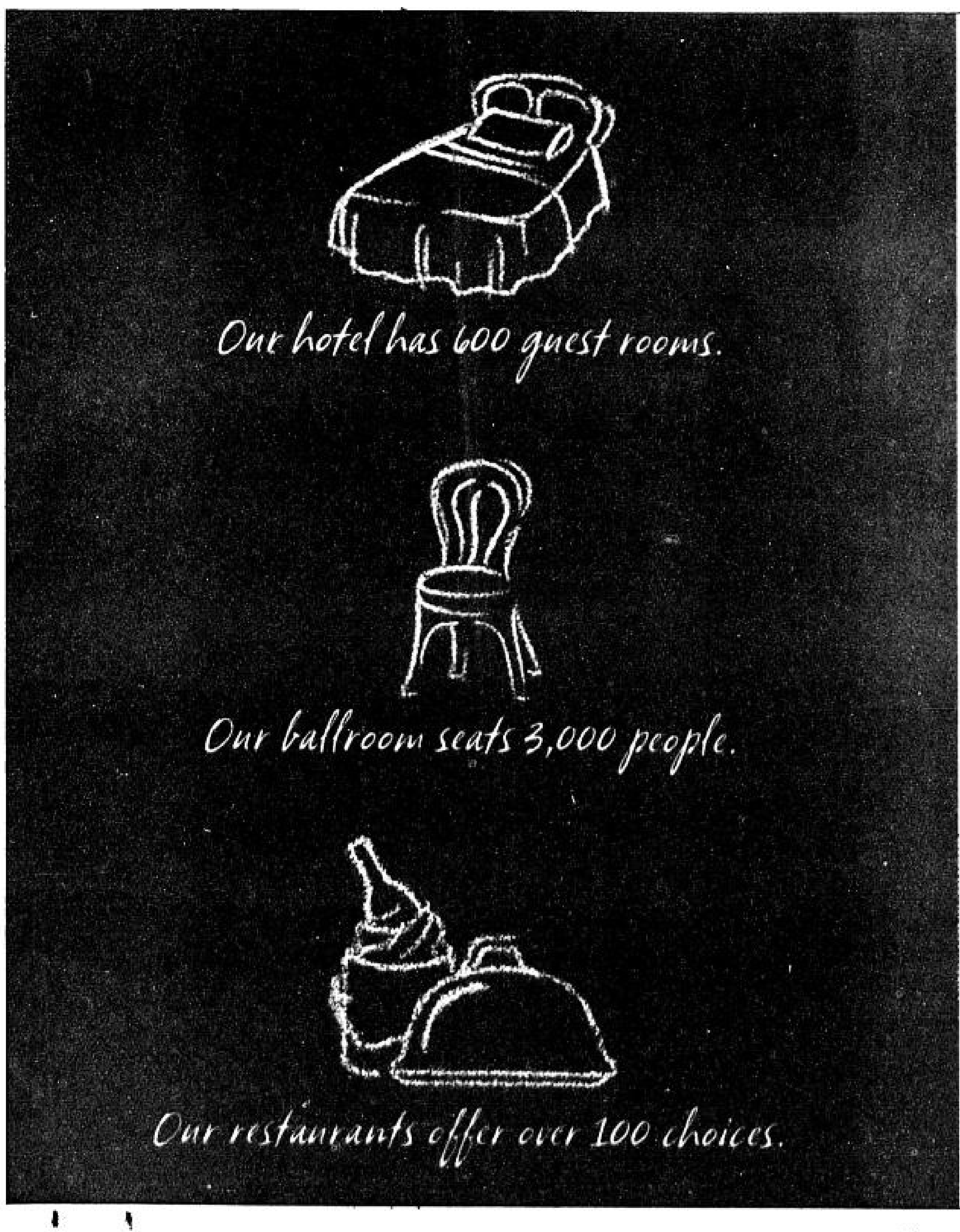
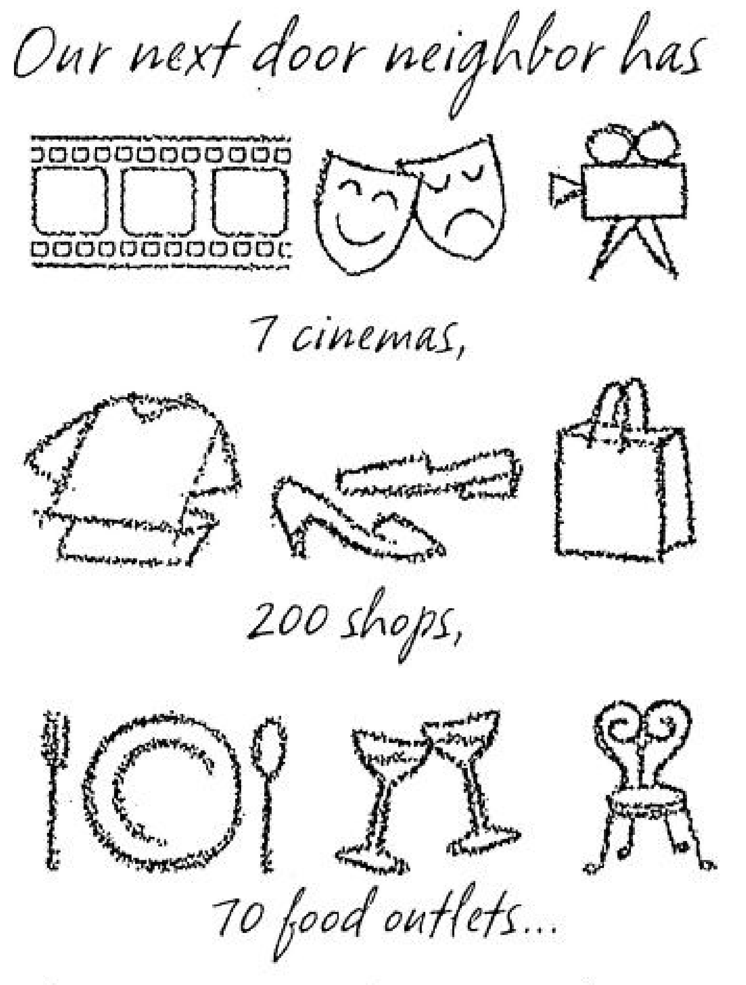

Our hotel has 600 guest rooms.
Our ballroom seats 3,000 people.
Our restaurants offer over 100 choices.


Our next door neighbor has
7 cinemas,
200 shops,
70 food outlets...

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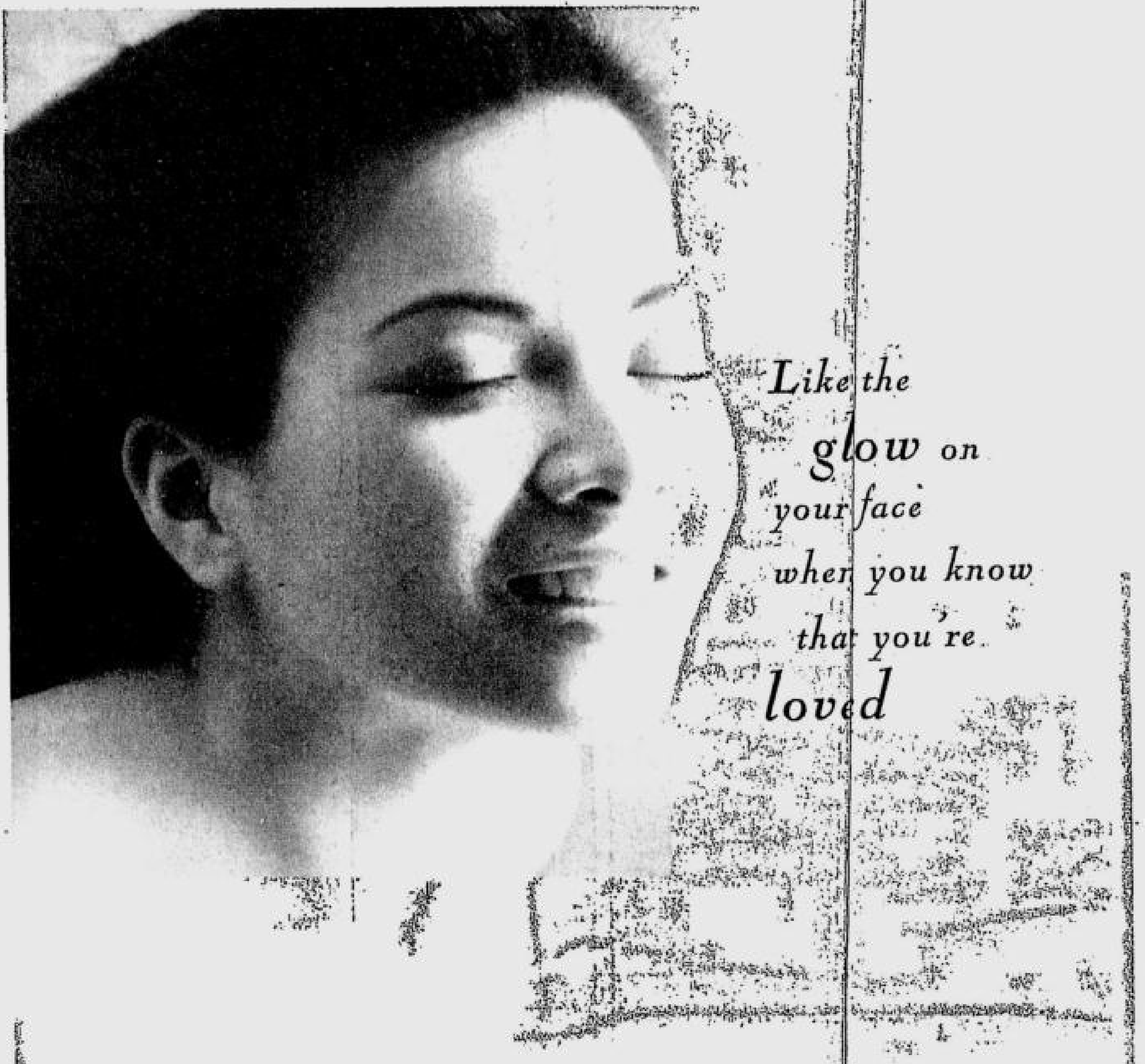

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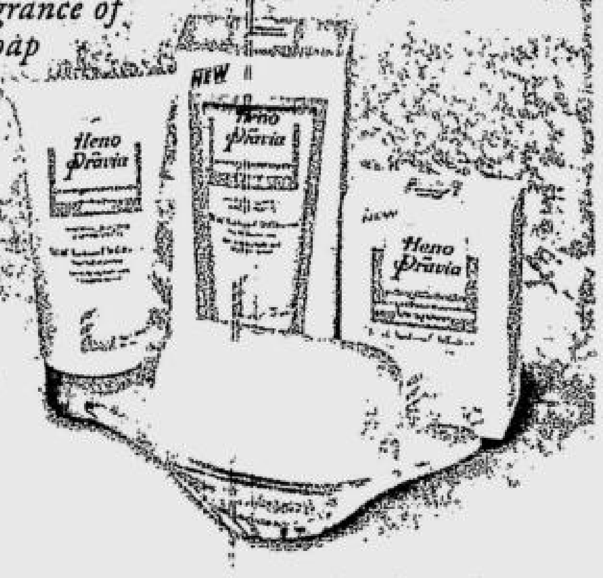
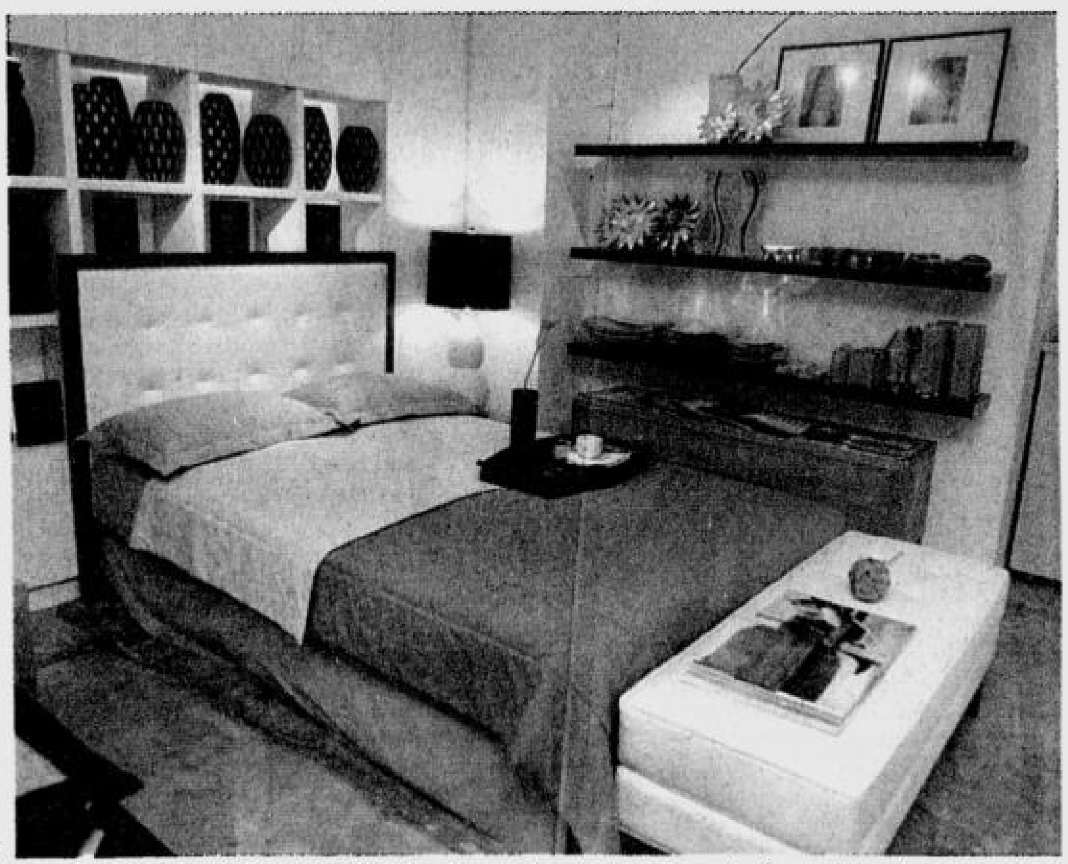
There are many skin whiteners but only *Heno de Pravia* Whitening Cream and Soap lavishly moisturize, protect from sun damage and combine radiance with fragrance.

Heno de Pravia
... is the fragrance, and it's natural



Available in leading supermarkets, department stores and drugstores



BEDROOM SETTING BY KISH. Headboard is white leatherette framed in *almaciga* wood. Ottoman bench at its foot. Bamboo breakfast tray holds Japanese ceramic plates.

New zone of creative home ideas

(From page D7)

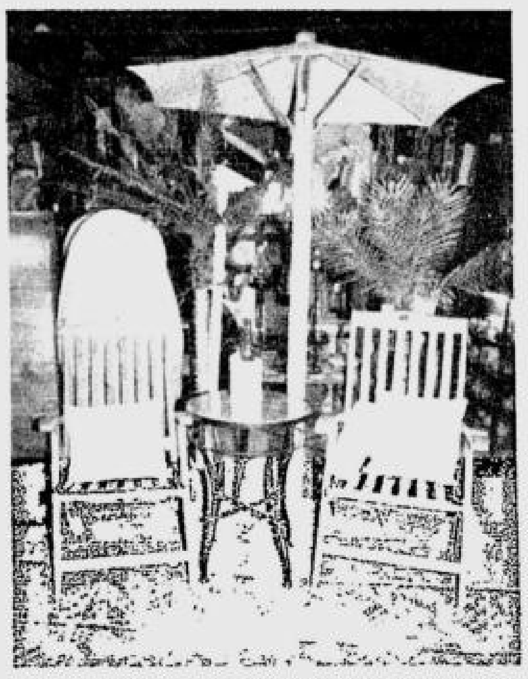
conventional types. There is also a wide armchair, all given added comfort by plump batik pillows. Look for Justine to assist you.

Pinewood Barn

Everything—or most everything—in Pinewood Barn is made of pine or *tanguile*. The pinewood used here is Douglas fir, the bluest sample at the time of our visit being a table that opens up from the top on hinges to reveal a desk with four drawers. With it is a *molave* log chair with rivet decor. Store manager is Chinggay Yap Ablaza.

Other stores

Other stores comprising the Home Zone lineup are Robles Heritage, which carries European lamps of stained glass and *capiz*; Home Front offers bed and bath lines; Victoria, religious figurines, mostly from Europe; Custom Clay, plates, mugs, water pitchers of glazed ceramics; Urban Effects, Asian furniture, one-of-a-kind and antique pieces; Earth Colors, earthenware, terra-cotta vases, pots, potpourri holders; Romance, Victorian-inspired home decor, gifts, novelty items; Regalong Pambahay, arts and crafts, gift items and home decor; Shell Canvas, imported textile/fabrics for curtains, bed and sofa coverings.



HOME & Beyond's lounging chairs for indoors or out. Table has ceramic top; chairs are folding teakwood. Umbrella is an indoor lamp.

mg

Sunday isn't the only family day.

(Changing the way you see weekdays at the Town.)

VALUE WEEKDAY Treats

June 5, Reggae Nights at 7:30pm, Town Plaza
June 17, Father's Day Event - Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at 5pm, Activity Center
June 20, Agot Isidro Concert at 6:30pm, Activity Center

VALUE DINING: Big food and drink discounts • **VALUE SHOPPING**: Get 5%-20% off on selected meat, fish, and other fresh goodies at South Supermarket's Price Saver's Promo • Special in-store sales • Shop in any 3 stores, collect at least P4,000 worth of receipts and get a FREE gift • **VALUE ENTERTAINMENT**: Buy-2-get-1 ticket free cinema promo • Play for 2 hours get 1 hour FREE at Puyat Billards • Great deals at Olympic Village & Timezone

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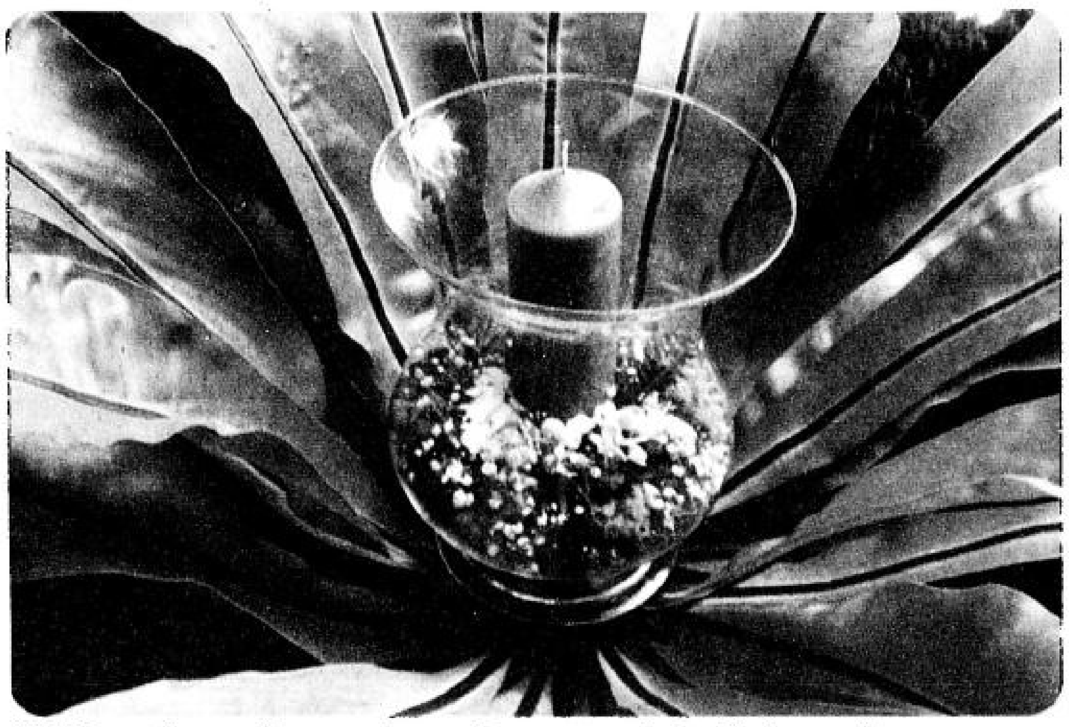
LIFESTYLE & Home

Flowers for dad, from the consummate florist



BIRD'S nest fern cradles crystal vase with candle on bed of hydrangea flowers.

By Tita Giron
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

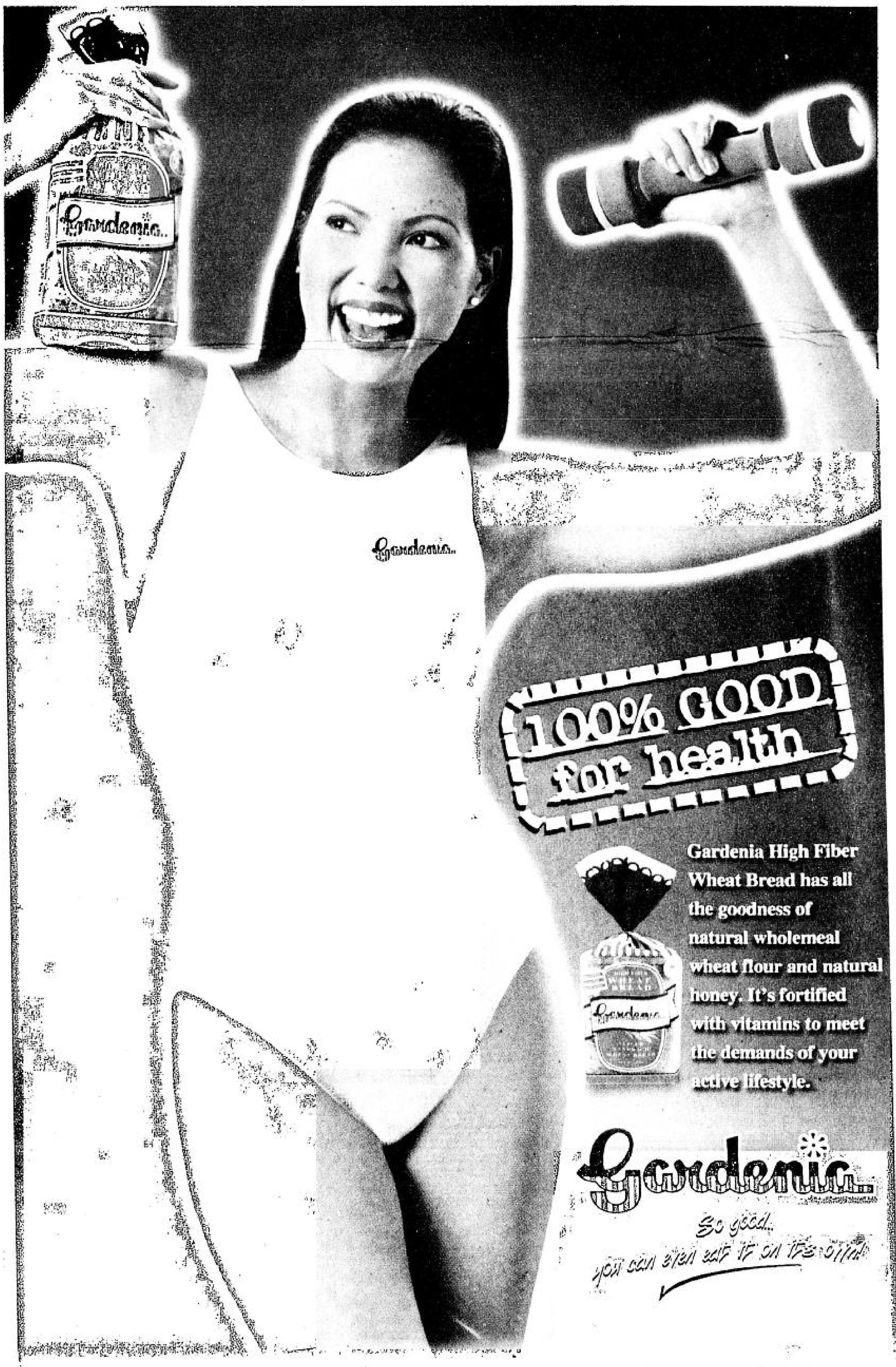
IN THE HIGHLY competitive business of flower arranging, a florist's career is made if his works are consistently featured in the newspapers. On that score, florist Tony Rodriguez has already "climbed the ladder of success," to borrow one of the praises from the press.

He has been described invariably as "premier florist," "creative," "top florist," "florist with a mean reputation for wedding arrangements," "low-key and modest" and "inspired."

But there's more to the modest Tony we have come to know through his peers, clients and friends, not to mention what Auggie Cordero and Thelma San Juan may have to say. He considers them his mentors, close friends and idols.

For instance, his centennial décor at Manila Hotel was reportedly commended by no less than

FLOWERS/p.E2



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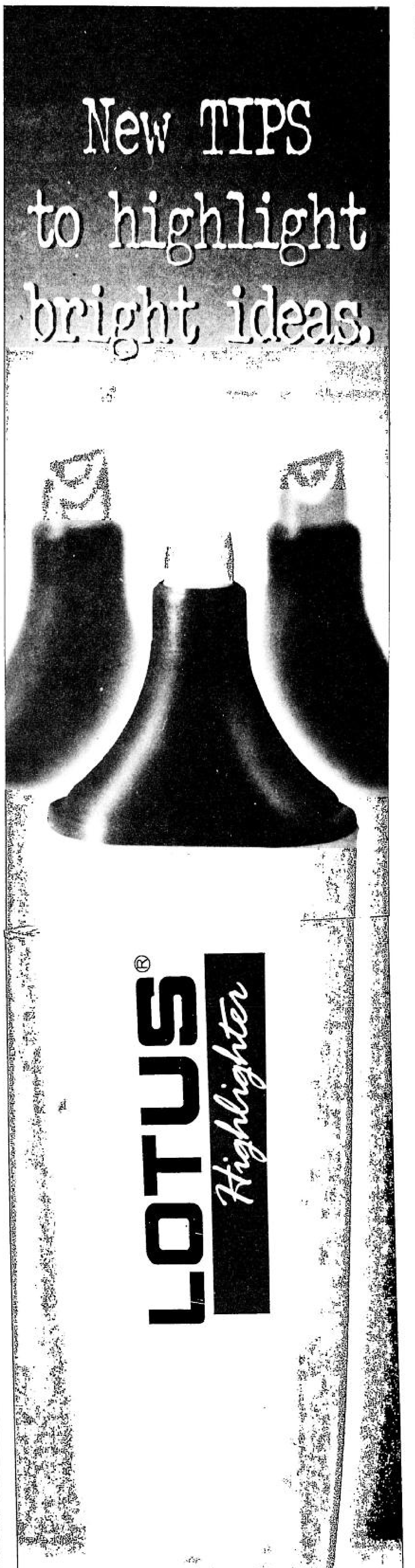
Convenience Stores: 7-Eleven, Binggo!, Caltex Starmart; Shell Select, Petron Treats, Total La Boutique, New Ever Foodmart, Mightee Mart, South Market Place and Easy Mart.



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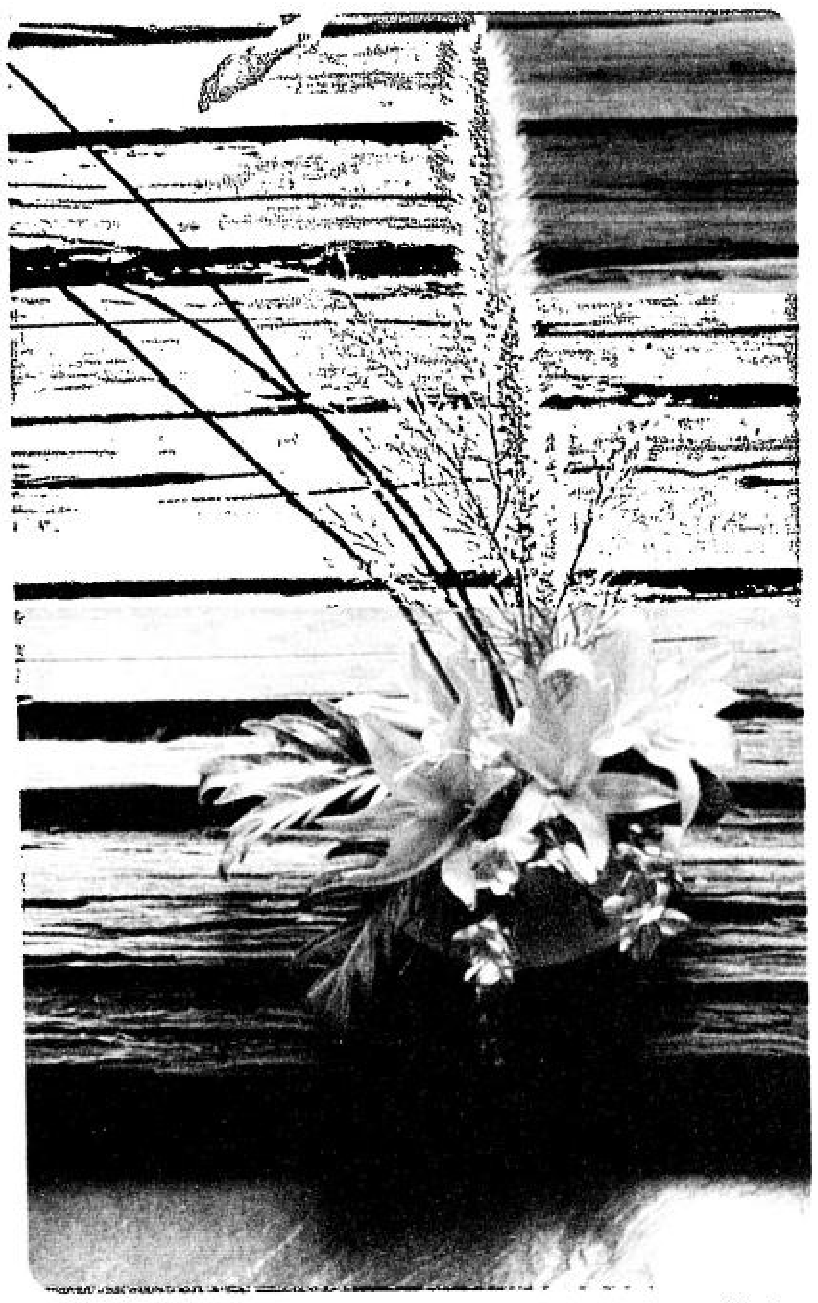
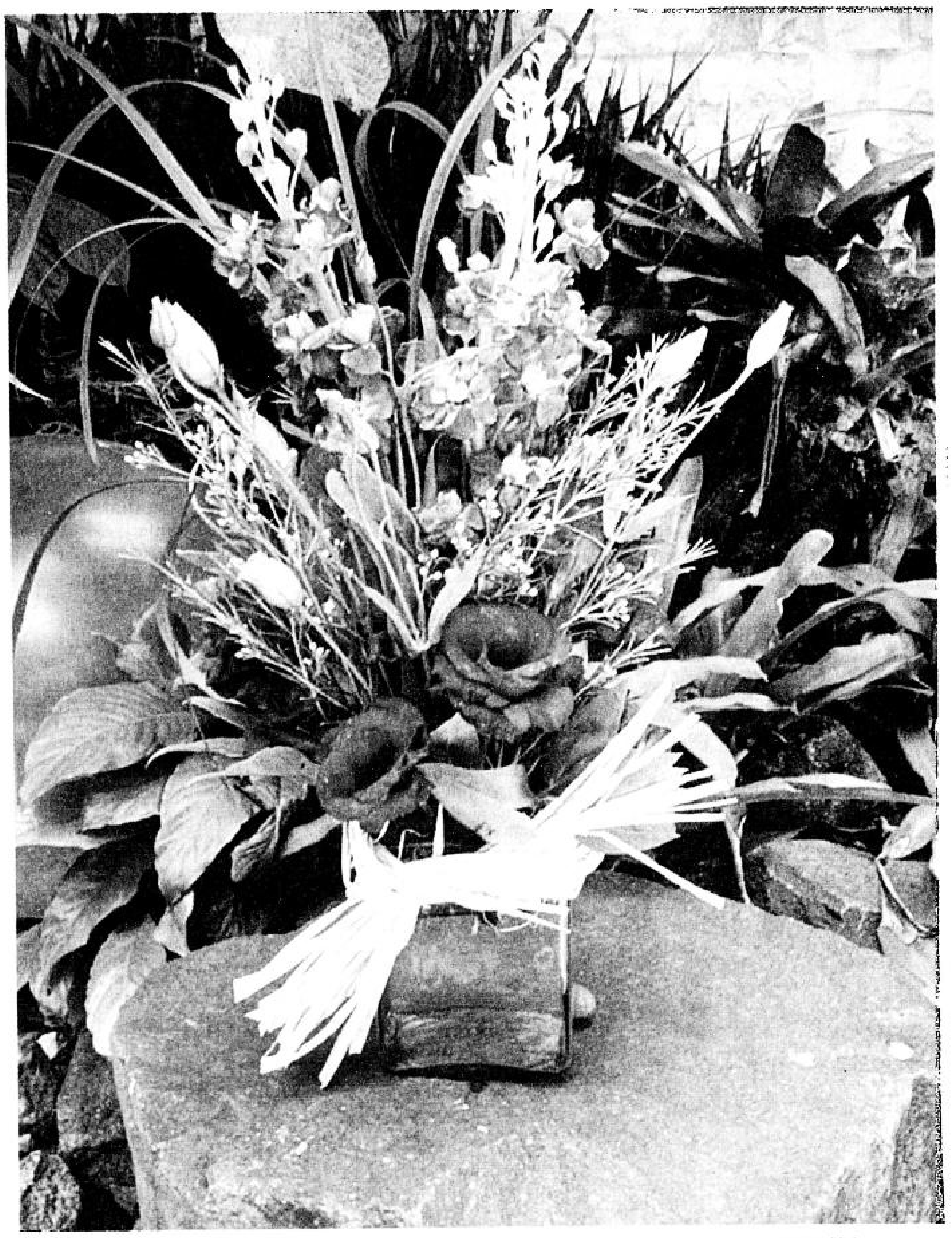


FREESTYLE arrangement combines foxtail, budded wax, black willow twigs, liliums, freesias and xanadu leaves.

Tony Rodriguez, whose floral designs have graced the top weddings of the last years, takes time out from his busy sked to whip up designs that pay tribute to the man of the house



Flowers for dad,

from the consummate florist

EXOTICA: Anemone, mathiola, freesias, buddled wax and green grass

TONY Rodriguez, consummate florist

(From page E1)

then US President Bill Clinton in a letter of appreciation to the hotel management after his state visit to the Philippines.

Celebrities and government officials have donned and toted many Tony Rodriguez posies. For example, one memorable photo on the front page of a newspaper featured then vice president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo carrying a Tony Rodriguez bouquet of roses in one hand while her other hand held on to the arm of then president Joseph Estrada. They were both sponsors to the wedding of the son of Maj. General Jose Calimlim whose flowers were done by Tony.

Celebrated weddings

Tony's flowers have become identified with many celebrated wedding ceremonies and receptions. He recalls the following memorable nuptials on which he spent sleepless nights to plan and compose: Joven-Cruz, Go-Palanca, Villavicencio-Cruz, Reyes-Concepcion, Ty-Tan and Ruallo-Yuhuico.

The sweat and tears always pay off, Tony says. "I get letters of appreciation from the couple, and usually from grateful mothers. But there's one exception when a groom wrote to me, and his touching words kept me on Cloud 9 for many days. He wrote, 'What you did was beyond expectation, thank you very much.' "

He confesses that newspaper praises make him euphoric. He recalls how one writer described his flowers at the Go-Palanca nuptials in the 19th-century San Sebastian Church: "Masterful… the all-steel church was heavenly with sprays of casablancas, liliums, tuberoses… at the reception was another burst of bright colors."

If this florist's works have been described as "inspired," it is because he is really inspired. He says he derives motivation from fond memories of life in Bacolod with his late mother Lourdes Montfort and father Jose. Tony also has two sisters, Emily and Cecile, who manage his flower shop at the Ascalon Arcade in Bacolod.

"I learned about arts and fondness for flowers and gardening from my mom, but it was from dad where I learned discipline," Tony recalls. For that reason, it was a breeze for him to whip up at short notice the different flower arrangements for Father's Day featured on this page.

No carbon copies

His floral designs are evidently no carbon copies. "They cannot be the same because floral designs have to blend with the location, setting, personalities and occasion. My wedding bouquets, for example, complement the style of the gown in proportion to the bride's physical attributes. For that matter, the long bouquet would go well with a tall bride, but a nosegay will be needed for a petite bride."

As soon as the contract for any floral job is signed, Tony says he goes to the site to study the location and absorb the atmosphere before he can conceptualize the design. "I may sit in the church for a long time until I hit on the right design. In very difficult times, when nothing comes to my mind, I pray and it works."

Tony has specialized in floral wedding arrangements for 12 years. About 85 percent of his customers come from the Chinese community, he discloses. To keeps informed of current trends, he reads books and magazines. "One has to improve his skill all the time or he is just like a dull pencil that needs sharpening."

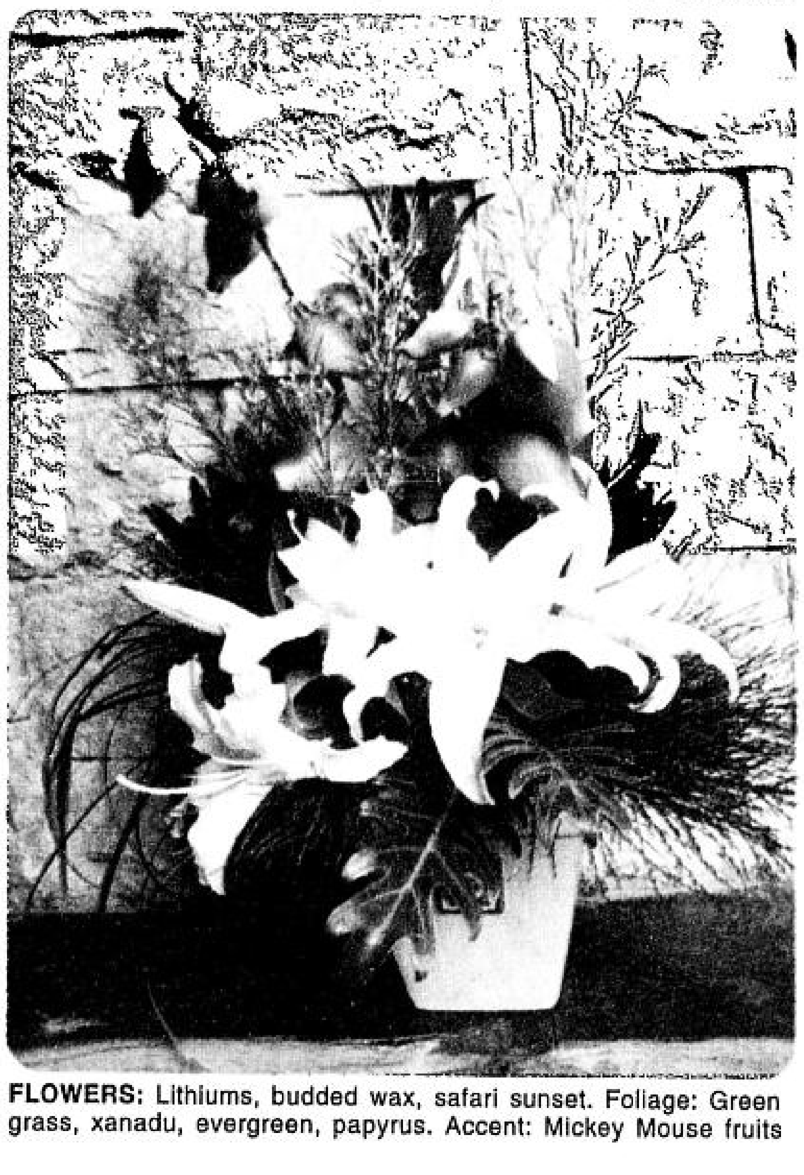
He is also known in the corporate world for his floral arrangements and Christmas décors. Manila Hotel retained him as Christmas decorator during which it won several awards consistently until the new management took over.

He has evidently made a name in the highly competitive business of flower shop operations. "I want to pass it on when the time comes to a successor, which is why I am training my niece who is taking up interior design," he admits. His potential successor is 17-year-old Irene Dolegez.

For the INQUIRER pictorial, Tony created masculine arrangements for Father's Day. He favors greens, purples and blues such as anemones. Believe it or not, he gets orders for flowers to be sent to guys on such occasions as birthdays, promotions or special occasions.

Tony's tel. nos. are (0919) 650-3207 and 817-2056.

LOCATION:
BELEN KING'S RESIDENCE



FLOWERS: Lithiums, budded wax, safari sunset. Foliage: Green grass, xanadu, evergreen, papyrus. Accent: Mickey Mouse fruits

HYDRANGEAS and gypsophyla

UNIQUE vase for evergreen leaves and roses

Flower essences, mushroom therapy in holistic medicine

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

AN ANTHOLOGY of holistic medicine by Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, D. Sc. is off the press and should be of interest to those who are into herbal and alternative medicine.

The slim volume, "Perspectives on Natural Health, An Anthology of Holistic Medicine," is full of discussions on medical and health care that incorporate conventional and natural healing methods. The book makes a lot of sense in this respect because it explains how herbs and plants, found in our mountains and forests, complement western medicine. After all, many of those herbs and plants are the basis for the manufactured medicines prescribed by MDs today.

The book includes case histories of the effectiveness of these alternative medicines and methods, a short list of Philippine herbal and medicinal plants and their healing functions and a guide to alternative therapies. De Ubaldo lists 45 therapies, six of which make the most use of their natural state. They are:

- Flower essences, described by De Ubaldo as a method of alleviating negative emotions.
- Gatnotherapy, from the word "*gano*," which means mushrooms cultivated through the spore separation method. The mushroom specified here is the Reiski gan.
- Herbalism is an ancient form of healing still widely used all over the world. It uses natural plants or plant-based substances to treat a range of illnesses and to enhance the body's functions.
- Native American herbal treatments have been tested and incorporated with holistic herbal therapies.
- Tibetan medicine includes remedies from indigenous herbs, fruits, flowers, metallic powder and minerals, given in tablets which have proved especially effective in the treatment of rheumatism, asthma, gastritis, diabetes and neurological disorders.
- "*Unani*" also uses specific plants and herbs which cure such diseases as sinusitis, leucoderma, rheumatism, jaundice and elephantiasis.

Other therapies range from acupressure, acupuncture, aromatherapy to Ayurvedic medicine, chelation therapy, Chinese medicine, down to yoga.

The added value of the book is its implicit message of the need to conserve the sources of these herbals and medicinal plants. Our mountains, forests and seas should be kept intact and pollution-free if we are to continue to reap health benefits from them.

Clean air and Petron

IN THE MIDST of protests against oil companies that have hiked their fuel prices comes the news that Petron Corp. has committed itself to supporting the clean-air campaign by developing products that provide clean energy and cause less damage to the environment. It is also pursuing programs to promote sustainable development. Among the new products now in the market is a diesel fuel designed to improve combustion and reduce exhaust smoke. During Earth Month (April), the company teamed up with the ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Usok (Smoke Watch) program in setting up smoke emission testing posts at both the North and South Expressways.

Petron's major initiative this year is a mangrove replanting campaign in Bataan in which 8,000 propagules have been planted in an area of 1.5 hectares in a barangay in Abucay, Bataan. The aim is to restore Bataan's mangrove forest cover, which has been sadly depleted over the past few years.

Hopefully, these activities will compensate for the increase of oil prices.

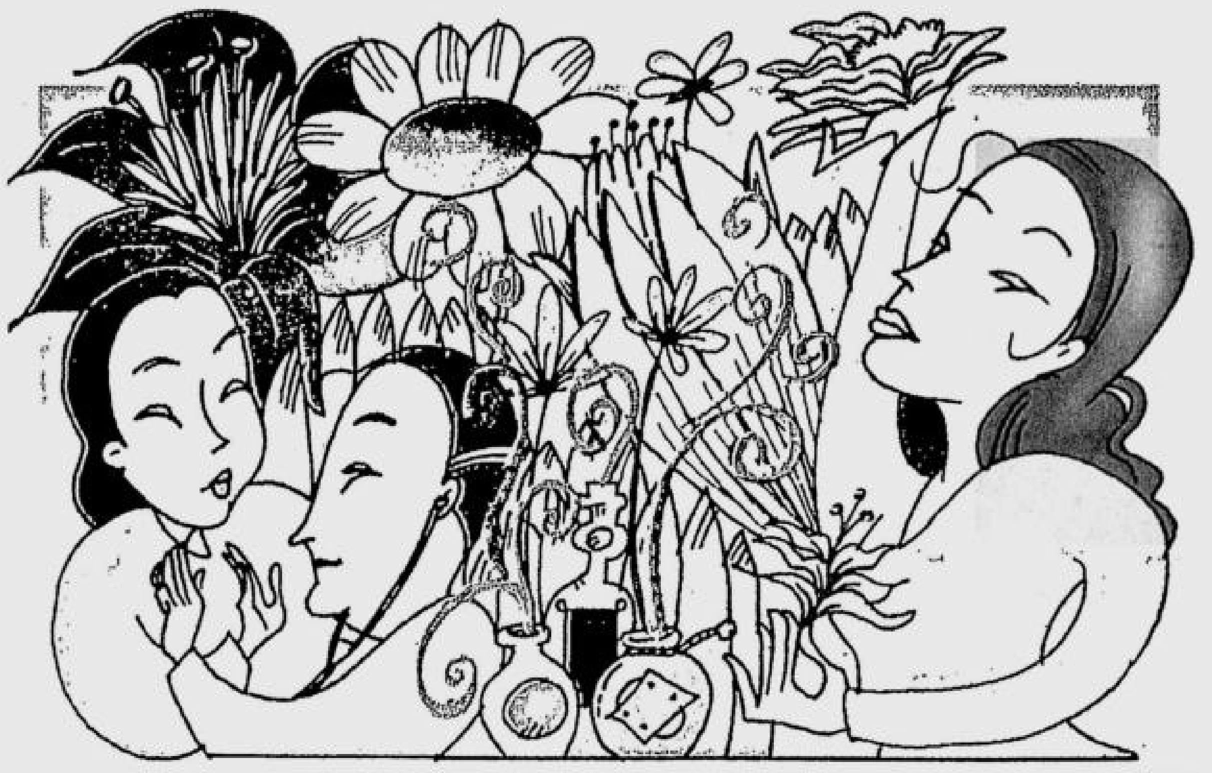


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

About mangroves

MANGROVES and their conservation should rank in importance as forests. Mangroves are a kind of forest, too. Mangroves are defined by biologists Hilconda P. Calumpong and Ernani G. Meñez as coastal trees or shrubs that adapt to estuarine or even saline environments. They inform us that the term "mangrove" refers to the individual plant while "mangal" refers to the whole community or association dominated by these plants.

Mangroves, we are further informed, are able to live in marine waters because they have shallow roots that spread widely across the substrate, often with extensions called "pneumatophores" that project from the mud and which allow the absorption of oxygen in an otherwise anoxic (no oxygen) substrate.

The most diverse single stand of mangrove forest is in Pagbilao, Quezon, with a total of 29 species, followed by Misom in Ballangao, Misamis Occidental with 21 species.

Calumpong and Meñez, authors of the book "Field Guide to the Common Mangroves, Seagrasses and Algae of the Philippines," inform us that mangroves, though traditionally valued for their wood and forest products (e.g. tannins, vinegar), have been steadily declining. This is as true for secondary mangrove forests as it is for primary forests. And this has been going on in an alarming rate.

The major causes of mangrove losses in the Philippines are logging and fishpond conversion. The introduction of pond culture in the '50s exacerbated the problem. Logging caused substantial reduction from 1920-1970.

The role of mangroves as nursery and habitat for fishes and other marine organisms is well-documented. Not as well-known is the fact that mangroves are a major source of organic matter and nutrients.

Today, some of the damage is being rectified by declaring the remaining mangrove forests as protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries and mangrove parks. This, we suppose, is where Petron comes in.

Singapore beckon

YOU can win an all-expense-paid trip to Singapore. If you are a veteran shopper, just write about your most memorable Singapore shopping experience and include a photo to prove it. For neophyte shoppers, write why you absolutely need to go to Singapore for the GSS 2001 and enclose a photo. All letter writers will receive a cute GSS 2001 teddy bear. Deadline for entries is June 12. Watch "F!" at 11 p.m. on Channel 2 on June 9 and 16 for more details, or call 636-0258.

Spending midyear in Davao

UNTIL July 31 for only P4,900 net, stay for two nights at any of Marco Polo Hotel's Superior Rooms and get one overnight stay for free. The Midyear Bonus Package also includes American buffet breakfast for two, complimentary airport transfers, free use of the fitness center between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., complimentary use of the swimming pool.

As a bonus, you get all these great deals: 10 percent discount at the Café Marco, Lotus Court and Lobby Lounge; 10 percent discount on massage and aromatherapy services; up to 10 percent discount from Sapphire Fruit Mart at the Madrazo fruit stand; discount cards from the Aldevinco Shopping Center; 10 percent discount on all Bookmark products; 5 percent discount at the Filipino Bookstore at the City Triangle; free entrance passes to The Venue; P50 off at the Lobby Shop and free Davao shirts and discount cards from Island Souvenirs for the first 20 guests.

Avail also of the Midyear Basic Pay Promo. Cap the day off and relax to the breathtaking site of Mt. Apo or the Gulf of Davao in any of our Superior Rooms for only P1,800 net on single and double occupancy during Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

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1. This sales promotion is open to all Metrobank E.T. depositors. To join, a depositor has to use his Metrobank E.T. card to pay for his purchases at stores and supermarkets accredited with the BancNet Payment System.
2. For every P500-single payment using his Metrobank E.T. card, an eligible depositor will earn a computer-generated raffle number.
3. RAFFLE DRAWS

a. MONTHLY DRAW	PAYMENT PERIOD	PRIZES	NO. OF WINNERS DEPOSITOR	CASHIER
April 20, 2001	March 15 - April 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
May 25, 2001	April 15 - May 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
June 22, 2001	May 15 - June 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
July 20, 2001	June 15 - July 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
August 24, 2001	July 15 - August 15,2001	₱2,000	30	30
b. GRAND DRAW August 24, 2001	March 15 - August15, 2001	₱10,000	15	15

c. VENUE: Metrobank Head Office, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Time: 3:00 pm

4. Thirty (30) winning numbers will be drawn in the monthly raffle and fifteen (15) will be drawn in the Grand Draw.
5. Each winning number will have a corresponding winning cashier who will win the same prize as the depositor's.
6. Cash prizes will be credited to the depositor's account; winning cashiers will be issued manager's checks.
7. A participant can win only once in each draw.
8. Winning and non-winning raffle numbers are disqualified for the succeeding monthly draws but will be included in the Grand Draw.
9. Winning depositors can join again in the succeeding monthly draws (including the Grand-Draw).
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail.
11. The winning cashier must present the notice and any valid ID within 60 days from the receipt of the registered notice. The prize can be claimed at:

    Metrobank Product Management Dept. 11th Floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City (for Metro Manila winners) or at the Metrobank branch specified in the registered notice (for provincial winners).
12. Promo period: March 15 - August 15, 2001.
13. Employees of Metrobank, its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.
14. The decision of the promo organizers, in concurrence with the DTI, is final.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0097 Series of 2001

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Festival Supermall showcases Philtrade's food and beverage expo

PHILTRADE Exhibits presents Food and Beverage Expo 2001 on June 23-29 at the Festival Supermall, Alabang. Activities include cooking demo with beauty queens, celebrities and stars, and special tips on how to prepare Vietnamese, Thai, vegetarian and other exotic cuisine. The exhibit is open to the public. Call 820-7879/1570.

GOINGS-ON

CONTEST. The Department of Agrarian Reform invites students and professional artists to join the on-the-spot poster-making contest on June 18, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., at the DAR Central Office on Elliptical Road, Diliman, QC. Call 426-2609.

HEALTH COURSE. Clean Body Clean Mind Health and Fitness Center with Ginhawa Wellness Center (Earthlite) is offering courses on the Reiki Healing Method at the Earthlite Center, 4/F COD Department Store, Cubao, QC. Call 532-6395/8807.

BOOK FAIR. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions will showcase its 5th Philippine Academic Book Fair on July 16-20 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, QC. The annual book fair will stage three seminar-workshops that bring together the country's best teachers and librarians in a unique forum that enhances the dissemination of information and public service to students. For this year, the seminar-workshops are: Reinventing Public Services in Libraries for the New Millennium, July 16-17; ELT 3 Revitalizing English Language through Content Base Instruction, July 18-19; Teaching and Learning the Preschool through Multiple Intelligence, July 20-21, and Enhancing Higher Order, Thinking Skills through Innovative Teaching Strategies and Assessment in Mathematics, July 20-21. All seminar-workshops will be held at the Benitez Memorial Center, UP Diliman, QC. Call 927-9858 or 926-4708, or Tradex Specialist at 438-1848 or 421-0779.

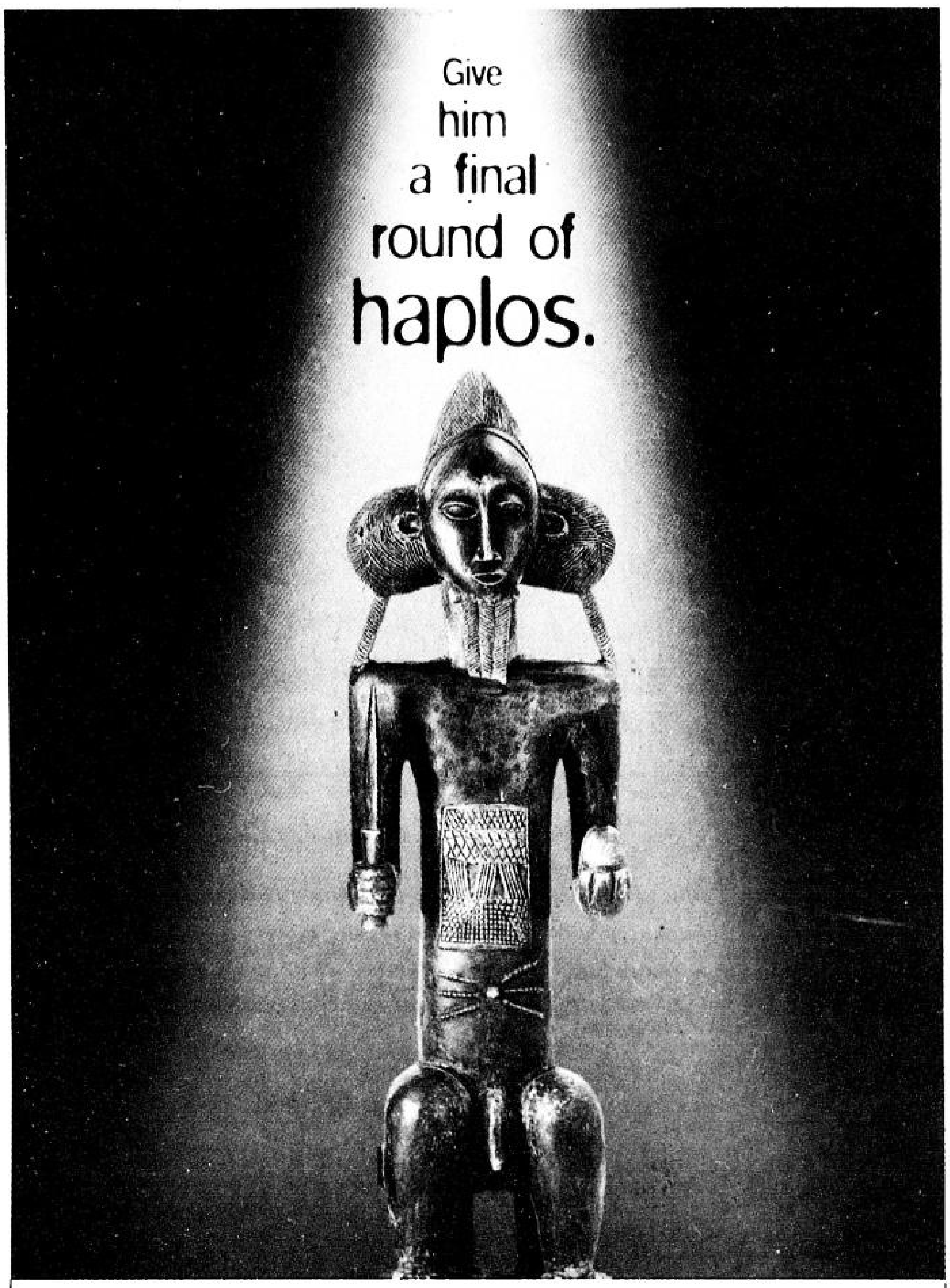
WORKSHOP. Contemplative Outreach Philippines is offering a special workshop to introduce Centering Prayer to young adults on June 16 and 17, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. This workshop is a conceptual background for Centering Prayer, the method, the practice and the fruits. The other is the Spiritual Journey Course in the format presented by Fr. Thomas Keating. The first module, Developing Centering Prayer, will be presented on June 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; June 16, 1:30-4 p.m.; June 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and June 30, 9 a.m.-12 nn. Both events will be held at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. Call 843-8292/8830, 817-7251/9499.

SEMINAR. An emotional management seminar-workshop will be held at the 5/F Joshua Center, Taft Avenue 1-3 p.m. tomorrow. Seminar fee is P500. Its facilitator will be Dr. Mitchell Feraren. Call 561-4979.

FORUM. The Philippine Librarians Association will hold a forum on Forging Partnership with Media and Book Publishing Industry on June 21, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., at the National Library Auditorium, TM Kalaw, Manila. Call 527-9071 local 44, 527-9074, 735-6011 local 5164 or 5135.

FRUIT-CARVING COURSE. ProActive Center for Training offers a demo workshop today, 1-5 p.m., at Encore! Encore!, 2/L SM Megamall A. Call 823-4947.

SPIRITUAL EVENT. A three-day spiritual event dubbed "Tindig Inang Maharlika, Pinagpalang Bayan at Lahi ni Dr. Jose Rizal" will be held on June 17, 18, and 19 at the Luneta. This festival focuses on Filipino greatness without religious, ideological or political color. The public is invited.



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Home LIFESTYLE

Rachy racks up another passion–painting

RACHY'S penchant for the Orient is reflected in this portrait by his friend, Menchit Ongpin.

The design vanguard has just come out
from a prolonged hibernation with a series of artworks
that celebrate the soul of creation

(Story on page F3)

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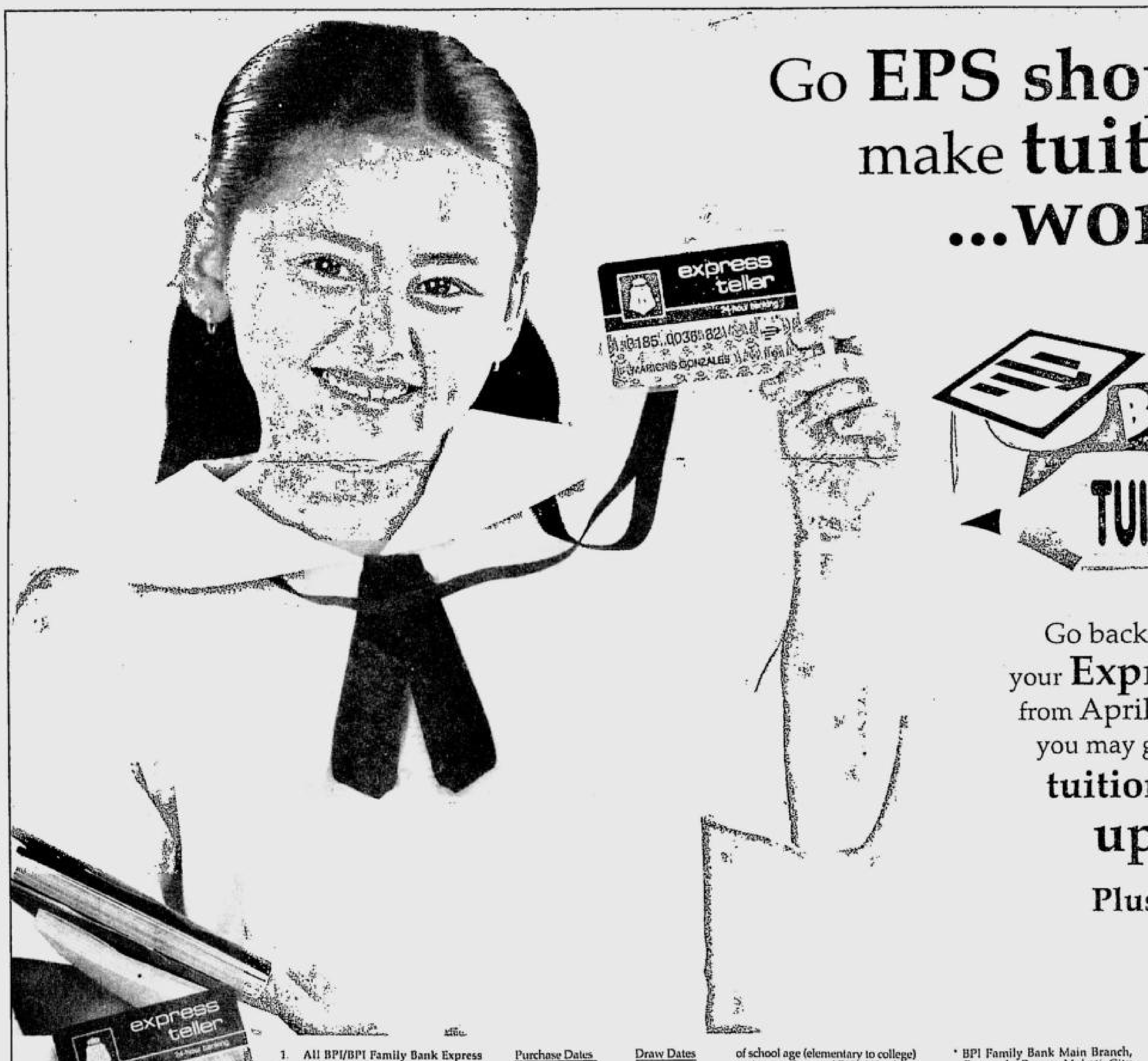

Go EPS shopping and make tuition time ...worry-free!
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Go back-to-school shopping with your Express Teller's EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001, and you may get your child's one-year tuition fee fully-paid up to ₱100,000!

Plus! You may win back your shopping money up to ₱5,000!

Express Payment System

1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001 can join the promo.
2. Every ₱1,000 EPS purchase in a single receipt will qualify a cardholder to one (1) computer-generated raffle number.
3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. For the weekly draw, the following shall apply:
   - Three (3) winners will win back amount of EPS purchase up to a maximum of ₱5,000 per winner (minimum ₱1,000).
   - Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase on a particular day are valid for that week only.
   - An accountholder can win only ONCE in each week's draw. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
   - All draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
April 30 to May 6	May 9
May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   - The amount won will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
5. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   - There will be three (3) grand draw winners.
   - All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   - The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
   - Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
   - Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present to witness the draw.
   - An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
   - All Grand Draw winners can claim their prizes at 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati. Just present your Express Teller Card and one (1) valid ID (drivers license, Company ID, SSS).
6. List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations;
   - BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City
   - BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
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Rachy racks up another passion–painting

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

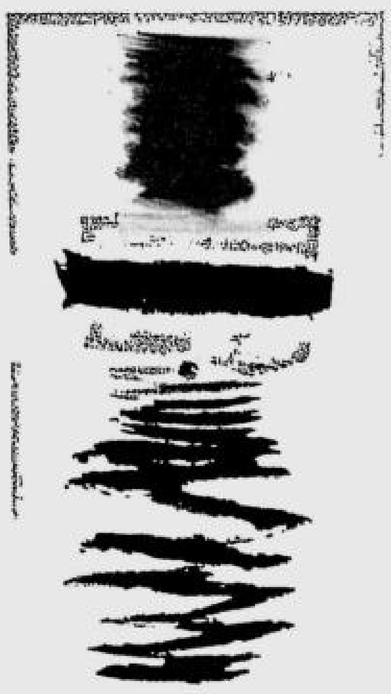
SOMETIMES we come across an artwork with superior technique but is vacuous at the core. Sometimes also we stumble on a painting that is visibly spiritual. Challenged by such an artwork, we get a straight message, unobscured by any difference of opinion or belief in life. What is it in the artwork that makes an impression on us?

According to modernist Paul Klee the artist "does nothing other than gather and pass on what comes to him from the depths. He neither serves nor rules—he transmits."

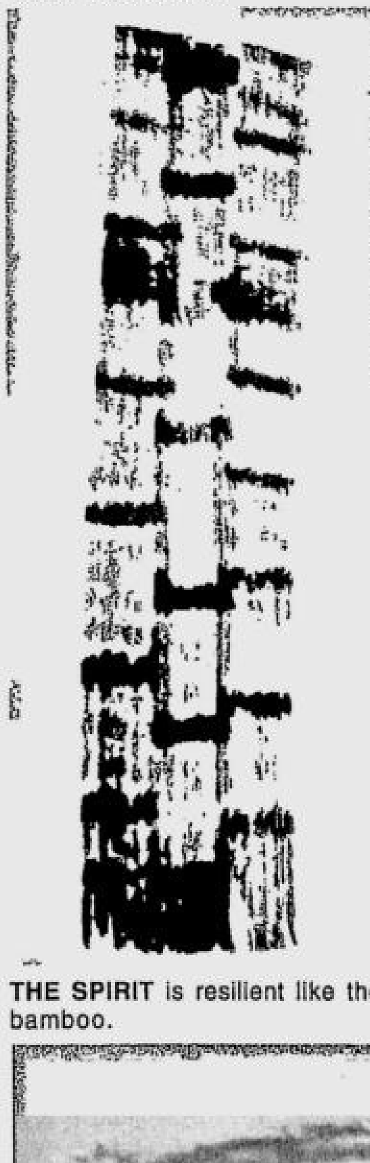
Abstractionist Kandinsky said, "the harmony of color and forms must be based solely on the principle of proper contact with the soul."

This soul-baring quality is what one gets on seeing Rachy Cuna's paintings. The design consultant famous for his flamboyant table settings and décor and flower arrangements has gone into painting. It's still too premature to feature him in the Arts/Design section since to a trained eye, his works seem mostly like exercises in swift brushstrokes on a red or white scroll paper. Besides he's only been painting for a few months even if the volume is enough to fill up a gallery.

MEDITATIVE setting done at the recent bridal fair at the Peninsula Manila. It features Rachy's trademark Sukho Thai Buddha hovering over a tea table laden with stoneware and ethnic pillows over moss.



STROKES spiral upward symbolizing the yearning for higher aspirations.



THE SPIRIT is resilient like the bamboo.

However, it's the process that never fails to amaze friends who see his artworks. The truth of his works—communicated in the figures that resemble calligraphy and the harmony of the composition—convey his inner convictions. The paintings tell the story of his own unfolding. The paintings evoke symbolic resonance.

Hibernation

For nine months now Rachy has been in his self-imposed hibernation. He was exhausted and he needed a long vacation. There were no pictorials, no socials, no big affairs for him to decorate, and no travels and shopping—his favorite pastime. It was only recently that he has been coming out of his cocoon on Padre Faura.

His experience was like being water enclosed by dam. In that enclosure the water accumulated and because of the strong pressure, the dam broke. During those months when he felt low, Rachy suddenly had the urge to paint. He bought paper and paint and started experimenting with brushstrokes and stuck black, red and gold. At first the strokes were hazy, as if signifying that a new creative energy was emerging. A few paintings later, the strokes became bolder, symbolizing restored confidence and energy.

It turned out that during his "hibernation," he accumulated a lot of energy to develop another gift.

Resiliency of spirit

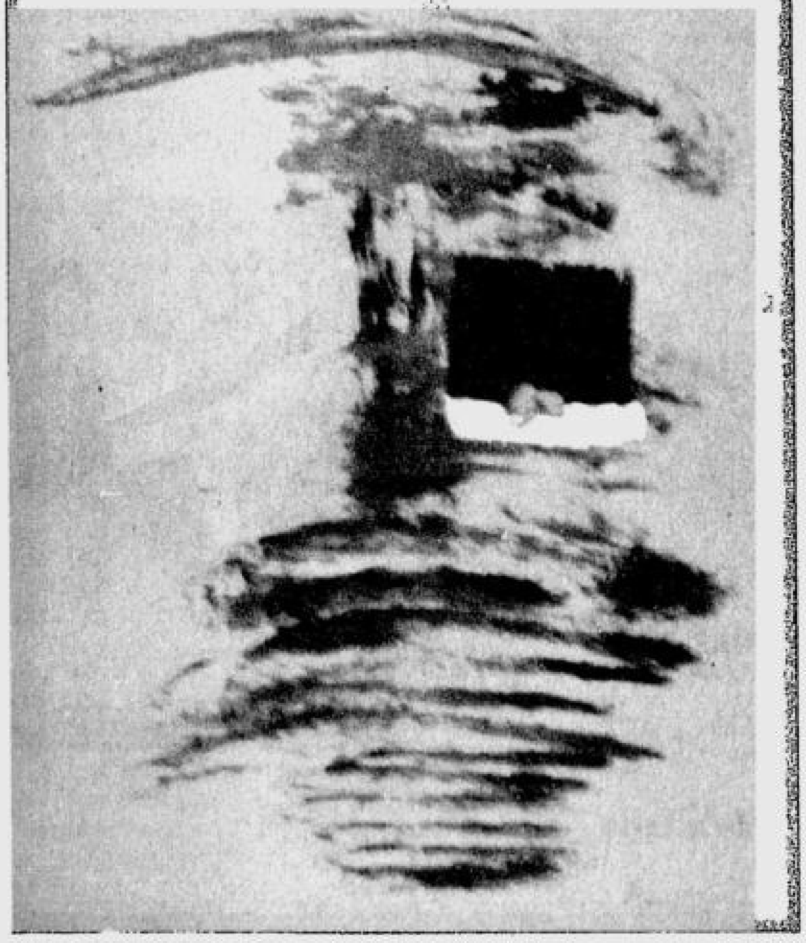
The images carry interesting interpretations. Rachy's bamboo series signify resiliency of the spirit. The circle setting itself apart from other circles subconsciously reveal his freedom from limitations and nonconformity to staid conventions. Some of the flowing strokes obviously tell that Rachy is just going with the flow of life. A work shows unusual spiraling movements from the bottom to the top, as if to symbolize the release of emotions or reaching out to Someone Up There. This was done at a time when Rachy's spirits were buoyant. There are works that depict a play with tips of the paintbrush as if to symbolize higher aspirations. Since flowers have always surrounded Rachy, these patterns are inevitable in his paintings.

The paintings resemble shorthand images that speak of transformation. They tell a message that once you're down, the only way to go is up if you've been positive like Rachy.

His works may not impress the art cognoscenti, but to friends, they offer glimpses of the spirit.

As writer Mike George wrote, "Even the greatest painting provides merely a window; whereas we must by our own thoughts and actions design, build and inhabit a complete house. In this we are all artists, expressing the ultimate form of creativity. The images by which we live are brushed into the mind's canvas by the virtues that we direct toward other people."

RACHY favors the relaxed attitude of Issey Miyake.



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She wants to be a good daughter and sister

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 14. My mom's going to immigrate to the United States soon, but Dad has a nice job here and will stay with us. We are not a broken family but I always hate myself for being stubborn. Dad often says I'm the one causing the problem. (It's true.)

My two older sisters always fight and they really hate me. My younger sister does not like me either. She always avoids my hugs and she won't listen to me when I ask her to do some chores.

Now, I'm still stubborn and a problem-maker. Please help and advise me.

Z KN

Hija, no matter what people or you yourself say, it can't be true that it is always you who cause the problem. Most problems are caused by a lot of factors and some of those have already started or caused the problem long before the "culprit" makes those problems obvious. But we seldom look at it that way because it just makes things complicated. Instead, just like in basketball, we tend to simplify things by blaming the last guy who touched the ball.

So, please stop living your life as if the unpleasant things that happen are always your fault. It is not. At the worst, you are just part of the problems or you are one of those responsible for it, but you are not, and can't be the only cause.

Take your problematic relationships with your sisters, for instance. Relationships are, by their very nature, two-way streets. Misunderstandings always happen, but if they last or become worse, it is almost always because both sides in it—not just one—have lost patience or just refuse to adjust.

Maybe your dad or your sisters tend to blame you because you are the one who most obviously refuse to adjust or because you lose your patience first or you lose it in very obvious ways. Your sisters refuse to adjust and lose their patience, too, but they are not obvious so they do not get blamed for it.

It is very difficult, though, to convince them of that. What will be much easier is for you to compromise a little more. And I don't think it would be totally unfair for you to do that. After all, they are your family and if you do them a favor, it benefits your entire home. What's more, you are the one who is hurt most by these problems, so you are the one, too, who stands to benefit the most if you remove the causes of your pains.

On husband-wife differences

IT is wonderful to see that in this day and age, you still cling to the belief that a woman deserves a day in court before judgment. Could I say the same if it were a man? I know of a couple with minor difficulties because the man, who worked abroad, received several calls from a female friend from the same city where he worked. Of course, suspicion is cheap.

I am sorry for being so sarcastic, but the times do not support our promises. I have heard the promise of "till death do us part" and "in good times and in bad" so many times. It is like a mantra, a prayer. However, reality is not so.

Madam, I wish, I pray that your reader Romy has only vague suspicions. That in the light of dawn, life is much prettier, sweeter and wonderful. However, if the reverse is true, I wish he could ask himself this question:

"Am I willing to accept this reality that in marital conflicts there are no victors nor vanquished, only battle-scarred survivors, that there is no spoils system, only ash from the scorched earth of our relationships and all friends, acquaintances, children and relatives will be collateral damages?"

If the answer is yes, the new Family Code, ironically, provides for a solution. There are several ways of terminating this relationship civilly.

Tita Dulce, how I wish I could be wrong. But at times like this, I would like to paraphrase Prime Minister Nelson Mandela in his divorce proceeding—"when I am with Winnie in the room, I am the loneliest man on earth."

CRISOSTOMO N. MIRANDA JR.

There are two sides to every coin. You are entitled to your opinion. Your reaction to the problem of Romy, who has discovered an "association" his wife had while he was abroad, and to my answer (PDI Lifestyle, 04/29/01) can elicit agreements from other readers. Thank you for taking time to express your thoughts.

Inasmuch as you did not specify to keep your name and address confidential, I am including them here because there may be others who will want to get in touch with you.

(Note: His address is 11 Matatag St., Diliman, QC.)

On love, life and family

DEAR readers,

A majority of letters that has appeared in this column deals with marital problems, most of them confidential. It is nothing to be amazed at. Even the previous presidency was encumbered by it. (Or brightened by it?)

The good news is that the 8th Asia Pacific Congress (Aspac) on "Love, Life and Family" will be held in Manila on Oct. 24-27 at the UP Film Center Auditorium, UP Diliman, QC.

The congress theme is "Families Forever: Moving Families for Life and Love." It will be hosted by Human Life International and the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Visit the Secretariat at 302 Our Home Condominium, Malakas corner Matulungin Streets, Central 1100 QC, or call 926-6177 to -78 or 434-9031, fax 434-9033, or e-mail life@hliasia.graphixweb.net.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

New fashion trip

A NEW merchandise collection will come out in the market as Star Cinema offers another sure box-office hit soon—"Trip," a film on life's journey toward discovery.

While "Trip" is sure to reap success for Star Cinema through another all-star cast drama that unravels the deepest secrets of a group of young friends during a refuge trip from city life, the Trip merchandise collection will also soon be a hit among all moviegoers. Inspired by the great potentials of the movie, ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc., the licensing and merchandising company of ABS-CBN, recently inked a deal with Roshan Commercial Corp., makers of 98 Degrees eyewear and Islands Souvenirs for the exclusive release and distribution of Trip eyewear, apparel and accessories.

The new merchandise collection will be seen in the movie as worn by the members of the cast. Today's freshest matinee idols Marvin Agustin, Kristine Hermosa, Jericho Rosales, Onemig Bondoc, Paolo Contis, Desiree del Valle, Julia Clarete, John Prats and Heart Evangelista and dramatic actress Ana Capri will join the "trip" toward the long and winding road of life.

Trip eyewear will soon be available at all leading optical shops nationwide and Trip apparel and accessories at all Islands Souvenir outlets nationwide.

Call ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc. at 415-2272 local 3601-3629 or e-mail consumer_products@abs-cbn.com.

CONTRACT-SIGNING. (Seated, from left) Roshan Commercial Corp. sales supervisor Aida Trinidad, ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc. managing director Lani Chua, Islands Souvenirs Int'l. director for marketing Lyndon Angan; (standing) ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc. licensing manager Felbin Soto and "Trip" production manager Tess Fuentes

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